



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Rejects Shamir Plan

JN1605184089 *Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1600 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee; date, place not given]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee discussed in its meetings of 14-15 May the reports on the plan passed by the Israeli Government. The Executive Committee believes that this plan does not concern the Palestinian people because it does not recognize their national existence and does not deal with their cause and national and legitimate rights. It also ignores all international resolutions including UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate the inadmissibility of seizing others' lands by force and the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the Palestinian and Arab territories they have occupied since 1967.

In its persistent defiance of international and Arab will, the Israeli Government presented this deceptive plan to the Jordanian Government, which had officially announced its disengagement of ties with the occupied West Bank and recognized the State of Palestine.

This new Israeli official deception will not fool world opinion or influential political forces, all of which realize that a just and real peace requires realistic solutions based on recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and national independence.

The appropriate framework to achieve this the international conference on peace in the Middle East and we should resume preparations for it. Any ideas or interim steps should be a part of a comprehensive and integrated plan leading to a just peace based on fulfilling our people's constant national rights until their national independence is achieved.

The legitimacy of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their independent state is indisputable and not a subject for negotiation. Time has run out for deceptive plans that attempt to beautify the occupation's image; and time has revealed such whimsical projects to the world for what they are and foiled attempts to market them by any party.

The Israeli Government's plan exposes and reveals the bankruptcy of calling for elections while not taking them seriously, and of Israeli attempts to deceive world opinion and entrench the occupation. This is accompanied by an escalation of its iron fist policy, crimes against the Palestinian people, and attacks on the blessed intifadah [uprising]. The official Israeli practices and statements indicate the same thing.

The executive committee salutes and hails the masses of our people inside [the occupied territories] who rejected the Israeli conspiracy and resisted heroically to thwart it. They thus affirmed their full loyalty to their sole, legitimate representative and demonstrated the unity and solidarity of our people's masses inside and outside the homeland.

The Palestinian people have decided to continue their struggle and brave intifadah and to adhere to the political line expressed by the Palestinian peace initiative until they achieve their goals of liberation, national independence, and peace.

PLO Radio Criticizes Plan

JN1605203789 *Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic*
1743 GMT 16 May 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir's so-called election plan received two serious new blows simultaneously from the united national Palestinian will. The first came from the PLO Executive Committee, which is meeting in Tunis, through its firm, repeated rejection of the Shamir plan. The second came from the nationalist Palestinian personalities when Yitzhaq Rabin, the enemy's war minister, summoned them to hear the Shamir plan after it was approved by the Israeli Cabinet.

The unified national Palestinian response to the Shamir plan is not new; it comes after political developments resulting from the summit meeting between the Palestinian and French presidents and the meeting between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in particular.

The Palestinian president acquainted his French host, Francois Mitterrand, with the Palestinian position on Shamir's obvious games. He also defined the nature of the trap set by Shamir in his plan to destroy legitimate Palestinian national rights. The outcome of the Palestinian-French summit was a gain for the Palestinian position when the French president expressed his opposition to the Shamir plan. And this is an important point recorded by Palestinian diplomacy.

The second point came from the meeting of the Soviet foreign minister and U.S. secretary of state in Moscow when the Soviet friends stressed rejection of the form of the Shamir plan without rejecting the principle of elections. They added the proviso that elections must be aimed at ending the Israeli occupation and regaining the national rights of the Palestinian people within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict through an international conference to be attended by all parties, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

While the Soviet stand on the Shamir plan was so clear, the U.S. Administration failed to match it but was left behind in a cloud of dust when James Baker reiterated his support for the Shamir plan. But this support was accompanied by a number of American questions on the nature, details, and objectives of the Shamir plan that are very clear to everybody except the U.S. Administration, which still claims that there are positive points in the Shamir plan. This is despite the fact that the U.S. Administration knows that Shamir did not include in his plan the slightest evidence of the possibility of Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.

However, the United States advanced a small step toward the Soviet and French positions in the Moscow meeting and in the wake of the official U.S. statements stressing the need for the Shamir plan to constitute only a step on the path of the final settlement of the Middle East conflict, not an objective in itself.

In light of these developments, the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] is proceeding ahead toward its legitimate national objectives with all firmness and violence. Hence, the intifadah will support the national Palestinian stand directly to deter and foil what is left of the Shamir plan.

In these circumstances and after these developments, the unified national Palestinian will has dealt its double blow to the Shamir plan—a blow from Tunis and another from the homeland in revolt. These blows will deafen the occupation leaders' ears and will raise one voice in the Palestinian sky—a voice reflecting one unified national will that cannot be undermined by Shamir's meddling.

It has become very clear now that the Shamir plan—a copy of the buried Camp David accords—has come near to destruction on the international level, as well as on the Palestinian level. The plan is rejected and fought on this level. The Israeli occupation leaders should search for an alternative or an amendment to the ruined Shamir plan to overcome their worsening impasse in the escalating siege of the Palestinian intifadah. They should save themselves the trouble of betting on paths that are obstructed by Palestinians. The only path toward a solution that is open to them is the Palestinian people—the peace of the PLO and the independent Palestinian state based on international legitimacy and its resolutions related to the Palestine question and the entire Middle East conflict.

Through the intifadah and its victories achieved by the one unified national Palestinian will, our great victory will be achieved over the retreating occupation.

UNESCO Refers PLO Admission to Executive Board
AU1605185989 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpts] Paris, May 16 (AFP)—UNESCO's 51-member executive board will examine Wednesday a

Palestinian request for admission as a state to the United Nations body and decide whether to discuss it during its latest session, the board's chairman said Tuesday.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has given UNESCO Secretary-General Federico Mayor a formal request for the admission of the "State of Palestine". A similar request has been presented by Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and South Yemen.

Jose Israel Vargas, the Brazilian chairman of the executive board of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said Tuesday that the UNESCO Secretariat, which normally draws up the agenda for twice-yearly board sessions, had referred the Palestinian question to the board itself. [passage omitted]

If the executive board, whose members are elected by the plenary general conference of UNESCO, decides Wednesday to discuss Palestine, it will also have to give a date for considering the application, during a session due to run until June 23.

But the board can only recommend Palestinian membership to the General Conference, where a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary to entitle the PLO to full membership.

Nonaligned Group Elects Palestine Chairman
MB1505192389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1919 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Harare May 15 SAPA—Palestine was today unanimously elected chairman of the political committee at a Non-aligned Movement [NAM] meeting of senior officials and ambassadors in Harare today, the national news agency, ZIANA, reports.

This is the first time that the NAM has accepted Palestine as a state and given it the honour to chair a committee.

'Arafat Adviser on Ties with UK, US, France
PM1105084289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 8 May 89 p 3

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] London denied yesterday any plans for a meeting between President 'Arafat and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe. Is the purpose of your trip to London to settle this issue?

[Abu Sharif] I have no knowledge of such a statement by the British Government. I find the statement attributed to a British official denying plans for a meeting between brother Yasir 'Arafat and British officials rather strange. I am going to London early next week to meet with Minister [of State at the Foreign Office] Waldegrave to discuss British-Palestinian relations, current developments in the Middle East, and the efforts to convene an international peace conference. The information I have to date, based on my meetings with a number of British officials, is that a Palestinian-British summit meeting is not at all unlikely, that arrangements for matters relating to the summit are being made as necessary, and that the decision will be made at the appropriate time.

[Correspondent] Do these arrangements cover a meeting between President 'Arafat and Geoffrey Howe or between 'Arafat and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher?

[Abu Sharif] I have spoken of a summit meeting. A summit meeting means a meeting between President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

[Correspondent] Does Britain agree in principle to such a summit?

[Abu Sharif] British officials have told me that no obstacles stand in the way of such a summit. We are now working quietly for such a meeting which—as British officials told me—will take place at the appropriate time.

[Correspondent] Could you name these officials?

[Abu Sharif] Minister Waldegrave himself.

[Correspondent] Does the Palestinian-British meeting have anything to do with your current dialogue with the Americans?

[Abu Sharif] Palestinian-British relations have improved tangibly over the past 6 months. There can be no doubt that Britain has an important role to play and a special responsibility in relation to the Palestinian problem. There was a British mandate in Palestine before 1948. Britain has a political and moral responsibility in the Middle East peace process, and the same applies to the states which voted in favor of Resolution 181. They have special responsibility for implementing that resolution or the principle embodied in that resolution, namely, establishment of two states in Palestine—one Jewish and the other Palestinian (Resolution 181 was issued in 1947 and provides for the partition of Palestine). We hope Britain will play a special part in facilitating the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you expect Britain to help improve your relations with the United States?

[Abu Sharif] Naturally. There are special ties and an alliance between Britain and the United States, and the same applies to Europe and the United States. We hope

that Britain—which knows the region's contradictions and conflicts well and has a good knowledge of the facts of the Middle East situation, and particularly of the region's historical background—will use its influence to convince the U.S. Administration of the need to support the termination of the Israeli occupation and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to choose the concrete form reflecting that right.

[Correspondent] Are you trying to engage in serious negotiations with the United States through Europe, especially Britain? Are you convinced that Europe is not out of the Middle East sphere of influence?

[Abu Sharif] Our negotiations with the United States are proceeding normally and directly. Official channels have existed since 13 December ('Arafat's initiative) through the U.S. and Palestinian ambassadors in Tunisia, but the dialogue with the United States is not confined to those channels, though they are sound and accepted. It is also taking place through our daily struggle in the occupied territory. The dialogue with the United States is conducted through our insistence and determination to end the occupation and through our commitment and adherence to President Abu 'Ammar's peace initiative. It is also possible and normal to conduct our dialogue with the United States through the states with whom we maintain good relations, particularly the Western states with whom our relations have recently improved. Everyone contacts everyone. There is no doubt that every effort made to develop the U.S. position constitutes part of the overall dialogue.

[Correspondent] Is the ultimate aim of your dialogue with the United States to reach the international conference table?

[Abu Sharif] Our purpose in conducting a dialogue with the United States is to present the facts and give the United States accurate information on what is happening in occupied Palestine, to get the United States to adopt a balanced position that says "yes" both to Israel's security and to international guarantees of Israel's security in whatever way Israel wants, and at the same time "yes" to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to their own independent state, also with full international guarantees of its security and stability. That is what we want from our dialogue with the United States. If the United States cannot adopt such an even-handed stance then it will be clear that it cannot play a constructive role in connection with the Middle East crisis.

[Correspondent] What are the effects of the 'Arafat-Mitterand meeting? How important is it for the Palestinians?

[Abu Sharif] What matters is that the two presidents have met. Abu 'Ammar has met with President Mitterrand in a French-Palestinian summit. The gain in relation to the peace process will be the results that that summit will produce in the future. What matters is that Presidents Mitterrand and 'Arafat have discussed ways of making peace and minimizing human suffering in the region. They presented mankind with a modest gift which could later become a major gift if France is able to play an effective and pioneering role in boosting the peace process.

Politically, President 'Arafat has offered the French and European societies and the world all that any peace hero could offer, in terms of both flexibility and the true desire to establish peace without slogans or illusions. In his talks with President Mitterrand President 'Arafat explained the Palestinian concept of peace and protection of the future of the coming generations in the Middle East—not only Arab but also Israeli generations.

In brief, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian people want comprehensive peace, not a truce. He told Mitterrand perfectly clearly: We are willing to continue this process. Moreover, he told Mitterrand that we will continue to adhere to the policy of peace despite Shamir's racism, aggression, expansionism.

[Correspondent] [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Secretary General] Georges Habash has said that cancellation of the Palestinian national charter is something that should be decided by a Palestinian popular referendum. What is your reaction to that suggestion?

[Abu Sharif] That is natural. If Georges Habash said that, it would only be based on the well-known Palestinian democracy. Actually, when the Palestine National Council [PNC] approved Resolution 181, it clearly and unequivocally amended the national charter. When the PNC legislatively approved resolution 181 which provides for the establishment of two states in Palestine, in practical and realistic terms, it was amending the Palestinian national charter which had rejected the idea of two states and insisted on one state.

When Abu 'Ammar spoke about that matter in France, he was speaking out of complete conviction and commitment to the PNC resolutions, which are legislative resolutions. [passage omitted]

Radio Urges 'Purge' of Rabin Interlocutors

JN1605184789 (Clandestine) *Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1658 GMT 16 May 89*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Our kinfolk in Palestine: A suspect meeting is now taking place between the terrorist Rabin and some people from the Gaza Strip, on which a curfew has been

imposed until further notice. These are Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Mansur al-Shawwa, Mahmud al-Zahhar, Riyad al-Agha, Zuhayr al-Rayyis, Rabah Muhanna, and Ahmad al-Tantawi.

The terrorist Rabin held a similar suspect meeting yesterday. The U.S. envoy Dennis Ross also met with some persons. These are Ziyad Abu Zayyad, proprietor of the Hebrew-language newspaper AL-JISR; Sari Nusaybah; Zuhayrah Kamal; Dr Zakariya al-Agha; and the pharmacist 'Izz 'al-Din al-'Aryan.

Brother strugglers, our kinfolk in Palestine: These suspect and capitulationist meetings are taking place at a time when a child is ascending to heaven in the Jabalyah camp in Gaza. He was martyred on the cherished soil of the homeland at a time when those suspects were meeting with the terrorist Rabin, the Zionist war minister. The pure blood of a child at the age of roses and flowers watered the sacred soil of the homeland.

Our struggling and patient people and kinfolk, your reply to renegades and violators of your will has been fierce. Teach those traitors a hard lesson and chase them down wherever they are. There is no room for agents or infiltrators in our ranks. Purge your ranks of outsiders and agents. The blood of hero martyrs will not be wasted so that those traitors, that stray handful of people, can sit with Rabin and his like among the Zionist usurpers.

Kinfolk, rise against injustice and oppression and against those who have sold their conscience and honor. God is with us. Victory is near. Together along the path of liberating land and people.

PLO To Send Aid to Territories Via Europe

JN1305163289 *Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 11 May 89 p 1*

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I has learned that several West European states have expressed readiness to transport the PLO's aid to citizens in the occupied territories after the Israeli occupation authorities intensified their control and inspection campaigns to prevent this aid from reaching the occupied territories.

Diplomatic sources in London told AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I that the PLO will actually begin to send this aid via a European state that has agreed to cooperate and to give all possible facilities to guarantee the arrival of this aid after it has become certain that this aid is related to the livelihood of citizens under occupation.

Arab League Statement on Palestine Anniversary
LD1305112189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT
13 May 89

[Text] Tunis, May 13 (KUNA)—The Arab League Saturday reiterated its call on world countries to take up their historic responsibility towards the repulsive crimes committed by the Zionist occupation forces against the Palestinian people.

The league asserted, in a statement issued here today to mark the usurpation of Palestine which falls on May 15,

the importance of distinguishing between bogus plans and a just settlement based on international legitimacy.

It added that it is 18 months since [the] start of the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab lands, which continues undeterred by Zionist brutal measures and repression.

It pointed out that Israel, after failing in all previous efforts to stop the uprising, is now selling its so-called autonomy plan with the aim of misleading the Western public opinion.

Algeria

FLN Central Committee Emergency Session Viewed *LD1605213489 Algiers Domestic Service in French* *1800 GMT 16 May 89*

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee session has ended this afternoon. As you heard, the FLN Central Committee has decided to hold an emergency congress at the end of October. Journalist Youssef Tahar, you were present at the session that will be followed by conferences and regional congresses:

[Tahar] Yes, it was with a short speech by the FLN president and chairman that the Central Committee concluded its emergency session this afternoon, a session which was entirely devoted—as we know—to preparations for the emergency congress. Following the debate, the Central Committee set the date for this congress, which we know now will begin 28, 29, and 30 October. It also set its draft agenda, defined the character of the participants and the mode of elections to the congress, as well as the various preparatory stages for the congress at the level of the militant base kasmats [district FLN branches], wilayats [departments], and regions.

This session also defined focal points of the debate on which the Central Committee is to base the draft resolutions which will be submitted to the congress. The draft agenda has four items: the Central Committee report, the Front's political action program, a review of the Front's regulations, and elections of new members to the Central Committee. Those who are eligible to participate in the congress are the present Central Committee members; National Assembly deputies; delegates directly elected by the kasmats' general assemblies; militants in national mass organizations councils; militants in executive secretariats of professional and cultural organizations; militants holding high posts—a list will be drawn up later; and a certain number of observers, which will be decided by the Central Committee.

This session also decided to extend the national preparatory commission of the congress to members of the Central Committee in charge of coordination in regions. Debates will be held in kasmats. There will be conferences of wilayats and regional congresses, which will prepare draft documents to be submitted to the Central Committee given the importance of this congress, the Central Committee also decided to organize national consultative conferences. Conferences intended to open up participation in preparing this congress will also be held. Even citizens [as heard] will take part in the debate on the important national issues to be discussed by the congress.

The Central Committee has defined the main lines of the action program to be developed: defining the nature of the present phase; defining the FLN's task at the present phase; the policy of the Front vis-a-vis the popular

organizations; the relations of the Front with its environment; the reform of the executive and administrative apparatus; defining the forms of exercise of power by the Front; and the overall strategy of national development. As I said, it is the Central Committee that will prepare the draft resolutions to be submitted to the congress. As for the aim of the congress, this too has been defined. It will have to adapt the strategy of the Front in such a way that the FLN continues its mission of strengthening national independence, pursuing the country's overall development, affirming the national character, achieving social justice on the basis of the socialist choice as defined by the national charter, and establishing democratic practices inside the Front and in the country's political life in general.

[Announcer] Let's go back to the speech by the Front's chairman, President Chadli Bendjedid's speech.

[Tahar] It was a short speech. The president himself stressed that it was rather a speech for the meeting. The president of the Republic, the Front's president, was pleased by the debate, by the democratic practice within the Central Committee and particularly that the issues discussed were decided on, as he said. He also recalled that he addressed a letter to the Front's Secretariat expressing his opinion on the FLN's future work. The congress as he said, should be the perfection of the Front's internal organization, as well as its new beginning. Work methods should change, he said. Mobilization is necessary. This phase needs following up in the field and commitment to the principle of strengthening responsibility. The president of the Republic and Front chairman recalled that an ordinary Central Committee meeting will be held in June. At that meeting not only will national issues be discussed, but also international questions will be debated such as the Maghreb, Arab, and in particular African issues. This what we can say at the moment, but of course we will return in future bulletins to this important FLN Central Committee emergency session.

Energy Minister on Pipeline Project, Economy *JN1605160589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic* *15 May 89 p 13*

[Excerpts] Sadek Boussena, Algerian minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, has disclosed to AL-QABAS that contacts are under way between his country and six European countries to lay a pipeline to export Algerian oil to these countries across the Strait of Gibraltar. Boussena added that the project is the fruit of the improving political relations between Algeria and Morocco, as the pipeline will pass through Moroccan territory.

Boussena said that all the concerned states, particularly France, Spain, and Britain, expressed interest in the project, which might be expanded to cover Portugal and Germany [not further identified]. Boussena noted that he agreed with his Moroccan counterpart to establish a

company to prepare the technical and financial studies for the 3,000-km pipeline project that extends the Hassi R'mel oil field to the German border. [passage omitted]

The Algerian minister said that the world companies that had been furious with Algeria in the past years and refrained from carrying out any drilling operations have changed their position. These companies want to embark on drilling operations in Algeria. He added that during the past few months, four contracts have been signed with Italian, French, Australian, and Spanish companies. Bous-sena disclosed the existence of contacts with American companies to search for oil in Algeria. [passage omitted]

On the economic situation in Algeria—particularly as Algeria has witnessed demonstrations and disturbances as a result of the difficult economic situation—Boussena said that despite the progress achieved, the Algerian economy basically depends on oil and gas exports. These exports faced a severe imbalance as a result of the sharp drop in prices during recent years. The drop in prices has reached a serious level since 1986. The Algerian minister belittled the importance of the existence of external interference in the disturbances and demonstrations. He considered the internal factors and developments more important. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Hassan II Invites Mubarak To Attend Arab Summit
NC1605203689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco telephoned President Husni Mubarak today and conveyed to his excellency an invitation to Egypt to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference which will be held in fraternal Morocco on 23 May 1989. In addition, the king informed his excellency that the Egyptian foreign minister is also invited to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to be held on 20 May to prepare for the Arab summit.

The invitation to Egypt to attend the Arab summit comes after contacts between the Arab presidents and kings and President Mubarak. The Arab leaders stressed the need to extend an invitation to Egypt to take its place at the Arab summit meeting.

Paper Views Summit Invitation
JN1505155489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
12 May 89 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sa'id Sunbul: "Egypt's Dignity and the Emergency Arab Summit"]

[Text] The Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, declared that the emergency Arab summit that he has called will convene on 23 May. Whenever there is talk that an Arab

summit will be convened soon, whether emergency or ordinary, the question comes up in various Arab capitals: Will Egypt attend the proposed summit?

These questions do not come from a vacuum. Egypt's absence from the Arab ranks has weakened them, squandered Arab efforts, and created numerous severe Arab problems.

No one can imagine that the Arab world will manage to solve its problems with the absence of Egypt.

Therefore, the people in the Arab capitals are expecting Egypt's presence and are repeatedly asking this question.

It is natural—no, it is in the interest of the Arab nation—that Egypt be asked to attend the next Arab summit, whether this summit is an emergency one, such as the summit called for by King Hassan II, or an ordinary summit, such as the one to be held in Riyadh.

Up to the time of this writing, Egypt has not received an official, frank invitation to attend the Morocco emergency summit to be held on 23 May.

According to what is being said in Arab diplomatic circles, King Hassan II intends to invite the kings and presidents to an unofficial meeting to be held on 27 May. In this meeting, the conferees will decide whether or not to extend an invitation to Egypt. Then, King Hassan II of Morocco, as he is the head of the host country, will invite President Husni Mubarak to attend the summit, which starts its official meetings on the next day.

This proposed scenario, with all due respect to whoever thought it up and proposed it, poses many questions, and even reservations.

For example, it seriously questionsthe attendance of the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]—made up of Iraq, Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic, and Egypt—at the proposed summit.

King Husayn of Jordan has declared that the ACC heads agreed not to attend any Arab summit to which Egypt is not invited.

This idea has been confirmed frankly, decisively, and clearly by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on more than one occasion.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also confirmed this. He telephoned President Husni Mubarak yesterday afternoon and affirmed that he will not attend any Arab summit to which Egypt is not invited.

We can imagine what could happen if the proposed unofficial meeting does take place, and for some reason or another, it is decided that inviting Egypt should be postponed.

If this happens, the ACC countries will withdraw. A crisis will arise, whose clouds will overshadow all the causes for which this summit convened.

Another question arises as a result of this proposed scenario: What if the proposed meeting does take place, and then one of them attacks Egypt or its president who represents the whole Egyptian nation?

If this happens, will Egypt accept to attend the emergency summit?

The proposed scenario poses a great exclamation mark.

Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, or the return of the Arabs to Egypt, is no longer the point of discussion. It has become a fact and reality.

The return of relations was not only for the benefit of Egypt. It was also for the benefit of the countries who have reestablished their relations with Egypt.

Then, why this reservation? And why this style of inviting Egypt? Why does Egypt not get a frank and direct invitation to attend the next summit instead of being asked to wait until it receives a telephone call inviting it to attend?

It is definite that President Husni Mubarak, who cares for his people's dignity, will not agree to attend the summit in this way.

We—and here I am talking about the Egyptian people—do not presume that the aim of this proposed scenario is to offend, insult, or humiliate Egypt. Great Egypt—people and president—refuses to be insulted, does not accept humiliation, and is capable of responding to an offense.

However, we presume that those who thought of proposing this scenario were not so fortunate in their imaginations and accounts.

Inviting Egypt in this way will, undoubtedly, stir the emotions of many of Egypt's sons. It will definitely provoke some of us. This is what we do not want or wish.

The ACC heads declared their position honestly and clearly. It is a position that the Egyptian people will note down for these presidents, be proud of, appreciate, and welcome.

I also know that the Gulf Cooperation Council states support the policy adopted by the ACC heads to preserve the dignity of the Egyptian people.

Egypt's people can in turn only confront this policy with pride, appreciation, and welcome.

I say: Enough of wasting time on measures, scenarios, and ideas that might harm rather than help, that divide the Arabs more than unite them, and that squander their efforts rather than focus them.

The way for Egypt to attend the next Arab summit is a frank and clear invitation, which cuts a clear path and does not beat about the bush with meetings here and there.

The invitation should suit Egypt's status and dignity and its president's efforts.

I do not think that this opinion is mine only. Every Egyptian shares it with me. And no Egyptian forfeits the dignity of his country.

Jihad Organization Members Detained 16 May
NC1605214089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—The security forces succeeded in detaining members of a cell belonging to the Jihad Organization today. The members shouted hostile slogans. State security intelligence is currently interrogating the detainees, and the Interior Ministry is expected to release a statement on this issue later.

Mubarak Cited on Emergency Law, Domestic Issues
NC1605151689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that he is trying with all his might to provide prosperity for the Egyptian people. He explained that his aim is to assist the people in overcoming the barriers that their problems and hardships constitute. He expressed his belief that it is necessary to tell the people the truth openly so they will understand the facts.

This came in an interview which President Mubarak gave to the magazine, SABAH AL-KHAYR. In the interview, the magazine sought to portray the president's thoughts and the human aspects of his life as the Egyptian people's leader.

In the interview, which the magazine will publish in Thursday's [18 May] edition, President Mubarak stated that as a ruler he does not like to mock people or mislead them. Likewise, he said, he does not use test balloons; he tells the people the truth without losing hope.

He affirmed that this is the logic of confrontation in which he believes. He will not abandon it, regardless of circumstances.

President Mubarak asserted that the implementation of the emergency law in Egypt is designed primarily to protect the people from those who profit from their daily needs and welfare requirements. He said that the emergency law in Egypt is not designed to protect the ruler,

who needs no protection. In this connection, he declared: "It is the people who elected me. Why should I protect myself from them?" He stated that he will leave his post on the day he feels that he needs protection as a ruler. He stressed that the ruler who needs protection from his own people is not fit to rule.

He added: I am not seeking to protect myself from the people who elected me. My role, rather, is to help the people and pave the way for them to overcome their problems and hardships.

In his interview with SABAH AL-KHAYR, President Mubarak affirmed that so far as he is concerned, ruling means responsibility. He said he is doing his utmost and his conscience comes first when he carries out his duties to the homeland and its precious soil.

In his remarks about the emergency law, President Mubarak pointed out that those who speak today of this law know how the same law used to be applied. Before the July 1952 revolution, individuals were arrested and used to remain in detention for more than 2 years with no one daring to speak out.

Asked whether he has ever felt any despair or frustration because of the burdens that Egypt bears, President Mubarak stated that he has never despaired; while there's life there's hope, he said. He noted that he cannot shirk the burden of his duties toward the Egyptian people regardless of the weight of these burdens.

He remarked that the only situation in which he would despair would be if he felt that the voters who elected him president of Egypt and gave him their trust were "dissatisfied."

He was asked how the average Egyptian can be made to abandon his absolute dependence on the government for all his needs. He replied that the people have been "cared for" by the government for a long time. He pointed out that changing this situation requires time and cannot be done overnight. He affirmed the need to tell the people the truth openly so that they will stand on solid ground and understand the circumstances through which the country is passing.

He explained that in this regard it is necessary to speak realistically to the people so that they will perceive the need to cut down the rate of population increase and at the same time work continuously and with unabating zeal.

President Mubarak said that he is eager to let the people know the motives for any measure he takes in the public interest. He also called for changes in some of the evil aspects of consumption, such as excess and display, as demonstrated in the behavior of some persons in Egyptian society. He also stressed the need for the wealthy to play their national role toward the people by paying taxes. Taxes are the basis for social integration, he said,

and the revenue from them is spent on the poorer classes. He added that he respects the wealthy as long as they use their money to serve the poor by investing in more projects.

Asked about his enthusiasm to get close to the masses and speak to them in simple language during his field trips and the criticism of this by some people who say that this reduces the dignity of his office, President Mubarak said that this is his nature. He does not live in an "ivory tower," he asserted, and is eager to deal with the Egyptian citizen as a brother and a father and not as a president. He noted here that he believes that these human relationships remove many misunderstandings. He then asked: If good relations with the majority of world leaders have a role, then how about the relationship between the ruler and the people who have elected him?

President Mubarak cited as an example the U.S. President who jokes with his citizens and makes them feel happy. He asked: Does the dignity of the office require the ruler to frown? Is it dignity for the president to be isolated from the people and in touch with the elite only?

Asked about those things that he gave up when he became president, his excellency said: I did not give up anything except opportunistic friends who wanted to exploit me.

Asked whether he has entrusted Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah with particular tasks, the president said: Yes, I have entrusted him with tasks and am continuing to do so.

Responding to a question on the criteria for choosing his aides, President Mubarak said that morals, principles, loyalty, and devotion to work are the most important criteria.

Regarding the philosophy of reward and punishment in governing, President Mubarak said that this philosophy exists, but in his view punishment should not go beyond a limit that would be counterproductive. He noted here his opposition to the call by some people to execute drug addicts publicly, stressing that Egypt is a country with traditions and that public executions are not at all civilized.

Regarding the Egyptian family and the position of women in society, the president praised the cohesiveness of the Egyptian family, saying that it is still cohesive and that the family is still the most important educational institution in society. He added that women represent half of society and that women in Egypt have many capabilities. He said that women do not have a "low voice" in Egypt's political action, but have not achieved much because of society's circumstances and traditions. He expressed hope that Egyptian women will achieve more in their social field.

Asked whether he believes in letting university students get involved in politics, his excellency said that he believes that young people have the right to know the country's political position and should be informed of it. However, he stated that he does not approve the political exploitation of university students, who should be concentrating their efforts on serious education.

Soviet Loan for Sinai Power Plant Signed
NC1505153189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Egypt and the USSR signed two economic and scientific cooperation agreements today. The first agreement pertains to economic cooperation between the two countries and was signed for Egypt by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade. Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister for foreign economic relations, signed for the Soviet Union.

The second agreement provides for building an electric power plant in 'Uyun Musa in Sinai with a Soviet loan estimated at about 120 million pounds sterling, to be repaid over 12 years at an interest rate of 3.5 percent following a 5-year grace period. The agreement was signed for Egypt by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, attended the signing of the two agreements.

Dr Yusri Mustafa stated that during the meetings of the Egyptian-Soviet joint committee, positive results were achieved with regard to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. He added that agreement was also reached on a program for long-term trade exchange that will extend from 1991 and 1995. He said this program will be submitted to the second session of the joint committee which will meet in Moscow during the last quarter of 1989.

The Soviet minister for foreign economic relations stated that these agreements are an important development in the future promotion of relations between the two countries.

Katushev Cited on Relations
NC1605131089 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, May 16 (MENA)—Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev has said that the current economic changes in the Soviet Union fall within the context of the perestroika aimed at activating the production process in order to reach the international market.

In a lecture at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Katushev, who is currently visiting Egypt, said that the new economic policy in the Soviet Union has embarked on giving room for the private sector alongside with cooperatives and the public sector.

He further said that the Soviet Union was giving a special attention to the development of economic and trade cooperation with Egypt, pointing out that he had discussed with Egyptian officials the possibility of establishing joint ventures whether in Egypt or the Soviet Union.

Katushev further said that a remarkable progress was made in the domain of trade and economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, noting that trade exchange in 1989 will go beyond 800 million sterling clearing pounds (2400 million Egyptian pounds) out of which 200 million will go for barter deals.

UAE Official Holds Final Talks With Mubarak
NC1605122489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held talks with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that during this last session of talks the two men reviewed the results of Shaykh Khalifah's discussions with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi on issues related to economic and trade cooperation, land reclamation, defense production, and media cooperation.

The information minister described the talks as very positive and said that they will have fruitful results for the ties between the two countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs
NC1605125189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon after an official 4-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Shamir Plan, Uprising
NC1505191989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1740 GMT 15 May 89

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary on the "Newsreel" program: "Where Is Shamir's Plan for the Occupied Land Going?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Shamir's 20-point plan has finally been announced. In its preamble, it declares that it constitutes the principles of a political initiative by the Israeli Government that deals with continuing the peace process, ending the state of war between the Arab countries and Israel, finding a solution

to the problem of the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, establishing peace with Jordan, and settling the problem of refugee camp residents.

Following this preamble, which is replete with good wishes, Israel affirms that its position with regard to the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will not change and that the Israeli Government's basic policy can be summarized in two chief points: First, it opposes the establishment of any additional Palestinian state in the Gaza area and in the area lying between Israel and Jordan; and, second, Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO.

After the Shamir plan was stripped of any positive content to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, the plan went into detail according to the Israeli scheme. The details consist of holding free and democratic elections without saying anything about the withdrawal of Israeli military forces or the provision for international guarantees, which all parties are demanding. Rather, the plan asserted that these elections will be held in an atmosphere free from violence, threats, and terrorism. This means seeking to put a complete end to the intifadah [uprising].

According to the Shamir plan, the aim of these elections is to choose Palestinian representatives who will participate in negotiations to establish a transitional period during which the Palestinians will be granted an autonomous rule by which they would administer their own daily affairs, except for security and foreign affairs and the affairs of the settlement residents.

Then, when the negotiations for a lasting solution begin, Israel reserves for itself the right approve, a second time, the representatives who were elected during the transitional period. This means that if the Israeli Government sees that these Palestinian individuals are, in its view, no longer suitable for negotiations, it then has the right to object to them. Shamir's plan, however, did not tell us in its 20 points how it will handle its objection to these Palestinian individuals. Is it the Israeli Government's intention to hold new elections to choose new representatives, or will it put forward another plan to deal with the crisis? This is Shamir's plan without adding or deleting anything from it. It is no more and no less than an Israeli attempt to strike at the intifadah.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts Bendjedid, Ben Ali
LD1605202689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] We have just received this news: Mutual contacts are being held this evening between the Arab Maghreb member countries. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali arrived in the Great Jamahiriyyah today, and delivered a message from King Hassan II to the brother leader of the revolution. There have also been telephone

contacts between the brother leader and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, and with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia.

The Jamahiriyyah sees no need to convene an emergency Arab summit; there is no justification for one. The Jamahiriyyah affirms the futility of holding such a summit in these circumstances, as there is no urgent issue to discuss.

Receives King Hassan's Letter

LD1605195289 Tripoli JANA in English 1644 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the emissary of King Hassan II and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in sisterly Morocco has arrived in Tripoli on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyyah.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. Filali has said that he is conveying a written letter from King Hassan II to the leader of revolution on the matters of common interest to Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation.

He has lauded the efforts made by the leader of revolution for the Arab nation adding that Col. al-Qadhdhafi gives always a special importance to the matters of interest to Arab Maghreb and the Arab matters in general.

He points out that the continuing contacts between the brothers in Great al-Jamahiriyyah and Morocco come within the purview of continuous consultations on various matters of interest to Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation, apart from shoring up the ties of brotherhood and cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

Libya Sets 'Three' Conditions for Arab Summit

LD1605201389 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1512 GMT 16 May 89

["Pool" item; "Three Libyan Conditions for Arab Summit"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Tripoli, May 16 (TANJUG)—Libya today said it might take part in the early Arab summit in Casablanca May 23-24 if three of its conditions were fulfilled.

The official organ of the Libyan Revolutionary Committee "GREEN MARCH" in its editorial written apparently by a very high-placed politician, seeks that the conference should "amend" the Arab situation instead of serving as a venue for "quarrelling leaders" to reconcile and shake hands.

Libya seeks that the Casablanca meeting should clearly define a program upon which Egypt would be dissociated from the Camp David peace agreements with Israel. It is stressed here that what is involved here is not the mere opposition to a [words indistinct] a state being returned

to the Arab League, but it is the matter of principle that Egypt—burdened with “recognition of the Zionist enemy”—cannot pass through the door of the Arab community.

Libya's second condition is that the summit marks the point at which a “series of [words indistinct] to the enemy” shall be stopped, and the armed struggle proclaimed the only choice solution.

It is easy to understand this stand as a criticism of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's new course after his decision to recognize Israel's right to existence, to accept direct negotiations and to annul a section in the Palestinian charter which deals with the annihilation of the Israeli [words indistinct].

Libya also seeks that the summit should pass an [word indistinct] Arab plan to rescue Lebanon from complete disintegration.

Libya's conditions, especially the first two, are assessed by Arab observers as having not too good a chance of being accepted by the other participants.

There remains to be seen whether Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi would nonetheless arrive in Morocco at least to express on the spot his refusal and “disappointment with the general decline in Arab morale” in the fight against Israel. Al-Qadhafi [words indistinct] to make his decision in the last minute as usual, it was said.

Al-Qadhafi, Syria's Al-Asad Discuss Summit
LD1605224589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] There has been a telephone contact between the brother leader of the revolution and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It was agreed that there is no need to convene an emergency Arab summit because there is no issue justifying such a move.

Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives for Consultations
LD1705083789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0758 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 17 May (JANA)—Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, arrived this morning in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

In a statement following his arrival, he said: We always come to the Jamahiriyyah to coordinate positions in regard to the latest developments in the Lebanese and the Arab arenas, and for consultation with the brothers in the Great Jamahiriyyah to harmonize our steps to face up to the various possibilities.

Regarding the fighting going on in Lebanon, brother Junblatt said: There is a partial cease-fire today and we hope that we will arrive at a political solution and settle the political reform so the current cease-fire will not remain a mere truce.

Morocco

Moroccan-Tunisian Committee Ends Work Session
LD1605221889 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Higher Moroccan-Tunisian Joint Committee ended the proceedings of its second session at Tunis today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart Hedi Baccouche and in the presence of the Moroccan ministerial delegation, a number of members of the Tunisian Government, and the ambassadors of both countries. The minutes of the session were signed by Dr Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart. On this occasion Dr Azzedine Laraki gave a speech. [passage indistinct]

The Tunisian Prime Minister stressed, on his part, that Morocco and Tunisia today have taken a new step toward consolidating their bilateral cooperation. He pointed out that the proceedings of the committee were frank and serious in bringing up problems and the methods of examining them. He regards the minutes of this session as important in the history of the two countries' relations. He added that its importance will please the two countries' leaders, His Majesty King Hassan II and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Before the signing of the minutes, Dr Azzedine Laraki held talks with Hedi Baccouche. The talks between the Moroccan and the Tunisian sides, which were held within the framework of the meetings of the Higher Joint Committee, have resulted in the signing of a number of agreements dealing with various economic, commercial, social, consular, and judicial sectors. The committee—having asserted the importance of the two leaders' guidance to bolster the bonds of friendship and cooperation and to continue efforts to elevate such cooperation to a better level—noted with great satisfaction the compatibility of the viewpoints of Morocco and Tunisia on a number of topics discussed by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart Hedi Baccouche.

As far as economic cooperation is concerned, the Moroccan and the Tunisian sides noted the significant increase in the volume of trade and reiterated their readiness to surmount the difficulties which have hindered the implementation of the agreements previously signed between the countries. To this end it has been agreed to call upon the joint permanent technical committee to meet at Rabat in the middle of next month. The two sides agreed to call upon the joint Chamber of Commerce to meet at Tunis in the middle of next month.

As far as the industrial sector is concerned, the two sides have agreed to increase (?cooperation) in industrial projects and encourage the setting up of joint private ventures between the two countries. They have also agreed to call upon the joint bilateral committee to meet in Rabat this coming October. They [words indistinct] agreement to bolster cooperation in the spheres of energy, banking, transportation, and agriculture. The committee noted with great satisfaction, in this respect, the implementation of the bilateral cooperation. The two sides have agreed to open negotiations in Rabat this year. They have agreed to bless the opening of the transportation route between Tunis and Casablanca. They have furthermore noted with satisfaction the resumption of movements of the citizens of Morocco and Algeria. The agreements also dealt with culture, education, information, tourism, handicrafts, and health as well as administrative, social, and consular cooperation.

Sudan

Official Says Relief Organizations Assist Rebels
*NC1605124589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1216 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (MENA)—A high-level Sudanese security source has accused senior officials of the international relief organizations operating in Sudan's Equatoria Province of leaking information about the Sudanese Armed Forces to the Sudanese rebels.

In a statement today, the source said that these officials are making secret visits each day to Torit and Kapoeta for this purpose.

The source explained that foreign experts are giving advice to the rebels in connection with making the necessary fortifications in Torit so that the Sudanese Armed Forces will not be able to recapture the city.

Egyptian Oil Spill Approaches Port Sudan
*NC1605170289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (MENA)—The Egyptian authorities have informed the Sudanese Government that a large oil spill of "black petroleum," about 50 square km in size, is approaching Sudanese territorial waters.

This was stated today by Muhammad al-Kamil 'Abd al-Rahman, deputy director of Port Sudan harbor, who added that the spill is still in Egyptian waters north of Halayib [placename as received]. He said that the Egyptian authorities have not been able to say exactly when the spill will reach Port Sudan, as this depends on the prevailing wind.

He added that the Port Sudan authorities have held urgent consultations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt to ask for assistance in lessening the effects of the spill. The spill might affect marine life within Sudanese territorial waters.

It is reported that the oil leaked from an unidentified tanker.

Bahrain

Amir Leaves on 3-Day Visit to Iraq 14 May
*JN1405084689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT
14 May 89*

[Text] Manama, 14 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, left for Baghdad this morning on a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

During his Baghdad visit, his highness the Bahraini amir will hold talks on bilateral relations, ways to enhance them in various spheres, current developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, ways to bolster Arab cooperation, and ways to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Council. Leading those who saw off his highness the amir were His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; the cabinet ministers; His Highness Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah; senior Bahraini military and civic officials; members of the diplomatic corps; the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Bahrain; and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

This visit is scheduled to be followed by another visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt with whom he will hold talks similar to those he will hold in Iraq.

His highness the Bahraini amir is accompanied by a delegation comprising Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, minister of justice and Islamic affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Mahmud Ahmad al-'Alawi, adviser to the prime minister for financial affairs; Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, information minister; Habib Ahmad Qasim, minister of commerce and agriculture; Yusuf Rahmah al-Dawsari, chief of the Amiri Court; 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, head of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry; Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, protocol chief; Bahraini ambassador to Iraq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Fadil; and Bahraini ambassador to Egypt Muhammad al-Muhammid.

His highness the amir is also accompanied by a media delegation headed by Khalil Ibrahim al-Dhawadi, assistant under secretary at the Ministry of Information for culture and national heritage; editors in chief of local newspapers; the WAKH editor in chief; and a number of escorts.

Kuwait

Paper Criticizes U.S. Middle East Policy
*JN1405123689 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
11 May 89 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Game of Nations"]

[Text] It is very necessary to end the tribulation in Lebanon, remove it from the circle of international and

regional crises, and put an end to the psychological and material damage caused by the new wave of violence. In the same way, we are aware of what is happening in the occupied Palestinian territories in the form of massacres, which have revealed the aggressive and scheming intentions discussed openly by Yitzhaq Shamir when he said that the intifadah [uprising] is merely another war waged by the Arabs against Israel. We realize all this, but at the same time we are afraid of the future. We also feel sad that the Arab governments have so far not realized the dangers of the current circumstances and the necessity to come out of the trench of division and fragmentation to where cooperation becomes a duty, coordination a pan-Arab must and security an obligation.

James Baker's Moscow visit came shortly after Yitzhaq Shamir's Washington visit last month. It is noticeable that since Shamir's return, the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy over the Palestinians, their organization [PLO], and proposed state, has started developing and taking dimensions leading to a comprehensive war rather than to a solution.

When Shamir announces that the civilian intifadah is like a war declaration, he means that he will not hesitate to provoke and arouse the anger of the Palestinians in their villages and towns so that he will have the chance to develop methods of oppression and confrontation and use the explosive force of cannons, planes, and tanks.

It is most probable that Shamir obtained the green light for his new plan from his friends and allies, the Americans, and that quelling the intifadah is, at this stage, a U.S. priority and political aim which the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is now bargaining over in his talks with his Soviet counterpart.

This priority currently centers on exploiting the Lebanese card and portraying the effects of the bloody war in Lebanon in such a way as to make the conflict there appear to be one between Arab systems under a Lebanese guise. It seems that the Americans have managed to convince General 'Awn to declare war on the Syrian 'occupation' and use his ammunition and arms resources, which come from Arab and European sources, to escalate confrontation and hamper Arab solutions. At the same time, Israel escalates the massacres against the Palestinians. The Arab situation is caught between two fires: the Lebanon fire, and Shamir's fire on the intifadah and the peaceful solution.

In contrast, the Arabs stand on the fringes of developments and events and play the role of both watcher and player. At the same time, the game and conspiracy continues against them, at their expense, and through regional and local means.

At a time when Israel draws its policy based on holding elections in the West Bank and on the fact that the state will not be established on Palestinian territory, the massacres committed against the residents of the camps

and cities manifest and support this policy. This policy is supported and backed by the United States. The proof of this is that Baker went to Moscow to convince the Soviet leadership to cooperate and define the policies of joint action for the coming stage. This means that the Americans want to involve the Russians in the game and thus drop the special masks and benefit from the new givens provided by the Arab crises whether in Lebanon or the intifadah. The Americans have not yet forgotten the pains caused by the Arab oil embargo in 1973. They are taking action to weaken the Arabs through the Lebanese gate because they want to put an end to the armed presence of any Arab power, whether near or far from the Palestinian borders, which could form a direct danger to Israeli existence or threaten its entity.

The enemy foreign minister yesterday discussed the growing Syrian military ability. He wants to draw attention to the emergence of a new danger threatening Israel to impose quick action to confront and put an end to this danger. This also indicates that there is a new chapter of conspiracy against the Arabs. It is wrong, while we are at the threshold of an emergency Arab summit, to handle our issues in the same futile ways and be content with issuing statements and recommendations which we shelve in files and drawers, at a time when the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas are jammed with dangerous events and when armed men and purveyors of death and destruction to everything that is Lebanese, Palestinian, or Arab are increasing in all their corners and areas.

Foreign Minister Voices Sorrow Over Mufti's Death
*LD1605161589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1404 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Kuwait, May 16 (KUNA)—Kuwait's deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tuesday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the grand mufti of Lebanon Shaykh Hasan Khalid in a booby-trapped car explosion this afternoon in western Beirut.

He told KUNA that he heard with great pain the news of Shaykh Hasan Khalid's martyrdom by the same sinful hands that have been wreaking havoc in Lebanon over the past bitter years.

"The loss is great that no condolences can match", Shaykh Sabah said, adding that the mufti was not the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Moslems only but rather lived for the whole of the country with all its sects.

Speaking of Shaykh Hasan Khalid as he knew, Shaykh Sabah said that the mufti shouldered the Lebanese agonies whether Moslem or Christian, personifying the Lebanese spirit as should be away from fanaticism or sectarianism.

Shaykh Hasan first and foremost's concern was to maintain Lebanon's sovereignty and independence for all its sons, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat went on.

He added it is thus difficult to comprehend how can a (?Lebanese) commit such a heinous crime at a time [word indistinct] efforts are seeking an end to the blood-letting and destruction.

Shaykh Sabah, who is chairman of an Arab League committee on Lebanon, said that the culprits are the ones who are interested in keeping Lebanon devastated.

He further charged that the culprits are the ones who fight any effort that is exerted to restore Lebanon's [word indistinct] role.

Shaykh Sabah expressed hopes that brothers in sisterly Lebanon would beware of such savage crimes that target clergymen with the aim of deepening sectarianism and hostility among ranks of the Lebanese people and expressed confidence that Lebanon is capable of passing its ordeal.

Finance Minister Leaves for Egypt 14 May
*LD1405201289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1703 GMT
14 May 89*

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 (KUNA)—Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi left here Sunday for Cairo on an official three-day visit to Egypt, in response to an invitation by Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Yusri Mustafa.

Al-Kharafi told KUNA before departure that during his stay in the Egyptian capital he would sign an accord on protection and encouragement of investment between Kuwait and Egypt "which we hope would crown up the distinct brotherly bilateral cooperation in compliance with the directives of h.h. [his highness] the amir and President Husni Mubarak."

The Kuwaiti minister also hoped that this talks with his Egyptian counterpart and other senior officials in Cairo would contribute to further boosting existing good ties and cover all issues of mutual interest to the two countries.

He stressed that Kuwait strongly believes in the importance of investing in Egypt [word indistinct] Kuwait is among the states who have been possessing considerable investments in Egypt and we hope through dialogue and discussions to evaluate those investments and explore means of promoting them," Al-Kharafi said. [quotation marks as received]

The minister said that the investment encouragement and protection agreement between the two countries which would be signed tomorrow "is the outcome of our last meeting on December 1988 in Cairo".

"He added that this agreement emanates from "our sincere desire to bolster bilateral relations in all fields particularly in the field of economics and investment between Kuwait and Egypt on basis of mutual benefit

and to employ the appropriate circumstances to encourage investments and to cope with the economic changes. [quotation marks as received]

Commenting on OAPEC decision yesterday to restore Egypt's membership, the Kuwaiti minister of finance said the step was natural, recalling the resumption of Egypt's membership in many Arab funds.

Al-Kharafi highlighted Egypt's role and stressed the importance of having Egypt assume its role in the Arab fold.

Sultan of Oman Confers With Amir on Peace
LD1505114589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1047 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman Monday called at 10:00 a.m. on H.H. the amir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace where they held official talks.

The Omani side at the talks was led by Sultan Qabus and the Kuwaiti side was headed by H.H. the Amir Shaykh Zabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Minister of the amiri diwan affairs said that the talks dealt with latest developments at the Gulf, Arab and international levels.

Progress of efforts exerted by the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon and developments of peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran in addition to bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries were reviewed, he added.

The talks, in a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and fraternity, reflected identity of views on many Arab issues, the official emphasized.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1605104389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0856 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 16 (KUNA)—Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman and the accompanying delegation Tuesday left Kuwait after a three-day official visit in response to an official invitation by his highness the amir.

Sultan Qabus was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah Al Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah and other senior high ranking officials.

Both leaders exchanged cables of greetings of Sultan Qabus' visit to Kuwait.

SFRY's Loncar, Amir, Crown Prince Hold Talks
JN1305153089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11-12 May 89 p 6

[By Jadranka Porter, ARAB TIMES staff]

[Text] Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar yesterday met HH [His Highness] the Amir, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah.

Loncar was on a 24-hour visit to Kuwait to discuss preparations for September's Non-Aligned Summit in Belgrade.

During his talks with Kuwait Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Loncar sought Kuwait's support for efforts to further the Iraq-Iran peace process, one of the key issues on the summit agenda.

Kuwait, because of its geopolitical situation, could be particularly helpful in seeking ways to further the Iran-Iraq peace process, Darko Silovich, a Loncar aide, told the ARAB TIMES.

Yugoslavia, currently a member of the Security Council, has been involved in the Geneva peace talks.

The talks also aimed at helping to put the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM], split by ideological differences, on an even keel, the diplomat said.

"The Non-Aligned Movement has sought to overcome the ideological differences between its members, but instead of leading the way we have been lagging behind" Shilovich explained. Yugoslavia, which wants NAM to play a more constructive and responsible role, is counting on Kuwait's active participation in efforts to find solutions for some of the developing world's political and economic problems.

Loncar also sought to hear Kuwaiti views on the Middle East problem, the Lebanese crisis, international economic order, North-South relations and protectionism, all of which will figure on the summit agenda.

"International economic problems cannot be solved through putting up barriers. We need the cooperation of those who have the capital, technology and know-how and we should all seek to develop common interests," said Shilovich.

The discussions dealt with ways to upgrade bilateral ties with Yugoslavs seeking to attract Kuwait investment, according to Shilovich.

The two sides hold an identical viewpoint on the role of the movement, stressed the diplomat.

He added that Kuwait is willing to extend its economic ties with Yugoslavs who seek a greater share of the Kuwait market and have recently liberalised its laws to

attract foreign investment. The diplomat said Yugoslavia, which is pushing for the market-oriented economy, is not seeking a preferential treatment in Kuwait.

"We feel we can compete on a free market and have more to offer than just expertise in construction industry," He claimed.

Yugoslavia is offering attractive investment opportunities particularly in tourism which promises quick returns, he said. Closer cooperation, he said, could help both countries cushion the effects of unpredictable market fluctuations.

Loncar also discussed the performance of Yugoslav companies in Kuwait, some of which have failed to meet their contractual obligations, said Shilovich.

"Kuwait is ready to continue the cooperation. The problems we have are being solved in a friendly manner," Shilovich said.

Oman

Palestinians Seek Contacts at 'Highest Level'

JN1505131789 *Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic*
13 May 89 p 1

[Text] Muscat—AL-BAYAN has learned of recent intensive contacts on the highest level between Oman and the Palestinian leadership. These contacts dealt with the Omani role to support the current Palestinian efforts through the meetings which Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman will hold during his Arab and European tour, scheduled to begin tomorrow, Sunday.

AL-BAYAN has also learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has informed the Omani sultan of the outcome of his visit to France. They agreed on the need to continue the French efforts and to push them toward convening the international conference during the visit to be made by Omani Sultan Qabus to France during June.

PDRY

Al-Bid Receives Ethiopian Party Official

LD1405171589 *Aden Domestic Service in Arabic*
2030 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] This evening, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general, received Comrade (Ashagre Yigletu), member and secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, who conveyed to him and to our country's party and leadership the greetings of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE secretary general and president of the Democratic Ethiopia. During the meeting, the two discussed the friendly relations and cooperation between the two parties and countries, and ways of strengthening and developing them.

Comrade (Ashagre) expressed that he is satisfied with the existing relations between the two friendly parties and countries, stressing the importance of strengthening and developing them in the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries and strengthening of security and stability in the region.

For his part, the YSP secretary general comprehensively explained the success achieved by our masses under the leadership of the YSP. Referring to the tasks facing the party and people, he said the foremost of these was the economic one, which our people were struggling to discharge with determination and energy. On relations between the two friendly parties and countries. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the need to continue bilateral meetings between the state and party leaderships.

He expressed gratitude to the Ethiopian party, leadership, and peoples for charitably helping our people to contain the effects of the natural disasters that recently struck some governorates in the republic. He also conveyed greetings through Comrade (Ashagre) to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam and to the party and state leadership in the friendly Republic of Ethiopia.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylani, deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Yasir 'Arafat

JN1505171089 *Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT*
15 May 89

[Text] Doha, May 15 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Salih al-Barghuti who is also deputy board chairman of the Palestinian National Fund conveyed the message during a meeting he held today with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY (QNA) said that the message dealt with the latest Palestinian developments with emphasis on the heroic Palestinian intifadah (uprising) in the occupied lands in addition to the current Arab situation.

Saudi Arabia

Commentary Denounces Policies of Iranian Regime

LD1605215889 *Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic*
2000 GMT 16 May 89

["Political Analysis" by SPA political affairs editor]

[Text] The Iranian regime has been captivated by the game of dissent against the Islamic consensus and the stirring up of sedition, and has begun to practice these

things every time it approaches the abyss of failure at Islamic and international levels, each time it becomes bankrupt politically and economically, and each time it faces Islamic consensus opposed to its push toward aggression and transgression against the sanctities, holy things, honor, and souls.

It seems that the rulers of Tehran are determined to proceed with their policies of sedition, discord, and crisis not only in the Islamic world but also in various parts of the world.

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully realize the real motives of these aggressive and deeply rooted junta policies which run the government there and which foment bloody conflicts among the various elements with arbitrary views, attitudes, and internal and external policies.

We know this and realize that the violent internal power struggles have committed the entire Iranian regime to games of one-upmanship which have pushed peaceful forces to the guillotine at times and to exile, deportation, and torture at other times.

What happens in Tehran does not interest us at all; rather, it would not have interested us at all had the internal wars in Iran not found in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its leadership, and its people an outlet for hatred and if the regime had not poured its utmost anger on us to divert the attention of its wretched people away from the bloody struggles which have deprived their tattered leaders of their sleep.

The extremist wing in Iran overwhelmed any opposition and indulged in a large-scale settlement of accounts with the other wings. Thereafter, all sides rushed to bartering, to one-upmanship, and to vying with each other in order to declare their loyalty and subservience to the regime, so as to protect their heads and to avoid a painful fate.

However, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has stayed with the mission entrusted to it by Almighty God, and which accepted a historic responsibility which it is proud to assume and which it discharges diligently toward Muslims everywhere, will remain, God willing, as it has always been: able to face all challenges and reject the cheap one-upmanship of the Iranian forces in dispute.

At the same time, the Islamic nation may be assured that Iran's chaotic situation will not prompt the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to deal in any way other than the way it is accustomed to, or without the objectives, positions, and policies it is committed to. It does not care about what is being repeated and stated by the Tehran rulers, because the Kingdom fully realizes that the Muslim Iranian people know more than any one else the reality of what is going on in Iran.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the first to understand the causes and motivations of the sick campaigns launched by the revenge-bent [mawtur] regime in Tehran to provoke the fire of quarrels in the Islamic world, and to repeat slogans and concepts that exist nowhere except in their sick inner selves, in order to divert the Muslim Iranian people's attention from practices which destroy their potential and resources, and their violation of the people's legitimate rights to life, stability, progress, and construction.

The Iranian regime went even further when it deprived the Islamic people of Iran from coming to the holy land last year, when the Islamic world confronted its hateful intentions toward Islam and the Muslims and exposed its plot to stir up sedition and turn Muslims away from performing their rites by bringing suitcases full of explosives and by stirring up chaos and riots in the sacred precincts of God's house and by occupying pilgrims' minds with political slogans which have nothing to do with Islam. Rather, they are against all the eternal Islamic rites, as though the pilgrimage and the Holy Land and the huge gathering of pilgrims have come to signify the glorification of priests rather than prayer to God, the deification of imposters instead of worshiping God.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is entrusted with these holy places, will not allow the rulers of Tehran to practice their misguided deeds in the Holy Land because it shall not and will not abandon its responsibilities toward the guests of God who come to this Holy Land from all over the world to worship God alone and to ask for his forgiveness and thus to consecrate the greatness of true Islam and the call for right.

Let the Tehran regime be assured that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which God has wished to be a safe place, the place of longing for the heart of Muslims, and an oasis for stability and good, shall remain like this forever, with God's might; it cannot be harmed by a dissenter against Islamic consensus.

As for the Islamic people of Iran, they will not remain silent, and they will not accept the continuation of this torture, destruction, and deprivation. The day is near, God willing, which we see here in Mecca and Al-Madinah, when they will perform the pilgrimage and visit the mosque of the prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, conscious of their responsibilities and eager to maintain the unity of Islam and the glorification of sanctities, not their violation as wished by the rulers of Tehran.

Statement on Lebanese Mufti's Death Issued
LD1605162389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 May (SPA)—In a statement issued by the Royal Court, the Kingdom has expressed its denunciation and condemnation of the assassination of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, grand mufti of the

Lebanese Republic. The Kingdom expresses its dismay at the Islamic nation's loss of one of the most sincere of its men, and also its confidence in the eagerness of the officials in Lebanon to discover the identity of the perpetrators and to put them on trial. [passage omitted]

UK Defense Chief Meets With Military Leaders
LD1605122389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1135 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Riyadh, 16 May (SPA)—'Uthman al-Hamid, assistant defense and aviation minister for military affairs, received in his office at noon today the British chief of the defense staff, Air Marshall Sir David Graig, and the accompanying delegation, currently on a visit to the Kingdom. During the meeting cordial talks were held and a review of cooperation and coordination between the two countries was made.

The British chief of the defense staff, Air Marshall Sir David Graig, earlier this morning met Lieutenant General Yusuf al-Rashid; commander of the land forces; Major General Ahmad al-Buhayri, commander of the Air Force; and Major General, Talal al-Mufti, commander of the Navy.

Paper Hails Aim, Effect of Kingdom's Oil Policy
JN1405154889 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
11 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and Its Oil Policy"]

[Text] The Kingdom's oil policy is an extension of its general policy, which is characterized by clarity and frankness. It is a declared policy that is in harmony with the international community's efforts to create a world system governed by the states' interests and aspirations for a better future. In the petroleum field, the Kingdom is one of the world's states that is most concerned about reaching a positive formula to save the world's economy from any sudden setback and from the possibility of falling in the whirlpool of sudden crises with the objective of enabling it to achieve the aspired stability.

As a result of the Kingdom's economic policy in general, and its oil policy in particular, the Saudi economy has become very strong and firm, possessing clear characteristics that distinguish it from the economies of several states whose development problems have accumulated until they are at a dead end. At the same time, development projects in the Kingdom have proceeded on course and in accordance with the set timetable. This has gained the admiration of brothers and friends and aroused the ire of enemies. In light of this, it is not strange that these enemies adopt positions based on lies and slander, out of envy and rancor.

Some news media attempts to include the Kingdom in the list of those who violate OPEC quota allocations—such lies cannot deceive anyone, because all those who are interested in this issue are aware of the Kingdom's

concern about abiding by OPEC resolutions. Due to the fact that such statements were not made by competent oil institutions, which constitute an authority in such matters, this proves that there are secret hands that deliberately spread this information in order to trifle with oil markets and to set prices in a manner that would serve their own interests, without taking into consideration the interests of the producing countries or the stability of the oil market.

The Kingdom's oil policy cannot be misinterpreted, because it is very clear to anyone. This clarity is the practical reply to these tendentious lies that are made by some sides that have no concern other than seeking to foil any agreement among the OPEC states.

Despite the fact that the Kingdom has refuted such accusations time and time again, the hiring news media insist on adopting such issues that are hostile to us. However, undoubtedly, these are losing issues by all standards.

Justice Minister Retires; Replacement Announced
LD1505212589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] A royal decree was issued today indicating that Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al al-Shaykh, minister of justice, has been retired at his request for health reasons; and that Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ibrahim ibn Jubayri has been entrusted to undertake the duties of justice minister in addition to his own post [of minister of state]. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Questions U.S. Mideast Credibility
JN1305203389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
12 May 89 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The United States has gone whole hog: It no longer waits for instructions from Tel Aviv to embrace the latter's stands; now the United States, of its own free will, draws new maps carving out the land of Palestine as it pleases and granting it to Israel without any reference to criteria of justice or constants of history, calling Palestinian territory Judaea and Samaria.

American intransigence thus seeks to allow unjust claims to be made against the land of Palestine in geographical and human terms.

The head of state, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, was not off the mark when he said that America's policies are at variance with the best interests of the American people. His highness had called on the United States to take the side of equity and justice and

urged that rights be returned to their owners. His highness said: Such is the position that the Arabs expect from the United States, and if their rights fail to be reinstated, the Arabs will have no choice but to take on their enemies head on.

For the United States to have maps redrawn to fit Israeli expansionism and theft surely calls into question Washington's credibility in the context of prospects for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The brazen U.S. bias toward Israel is detrimental to American as well as Arab interests. The American people are just as vulnerable as other peoples of the world to Israel's U.S.-backed aggression.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives in Abu Dhabi 14 May
JN1405203589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 May (WAKH)—Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an official 3-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan headed those who received him upon arrival. Shaykhs, ministers, and senior officials were present.

Discusses Arab Summit With President
JN1505163089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Ministry, stated after a round of talks between UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and His Excellency Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani that during the talks they reviewed the Arab situation in light of the expected emergency Arab summit in Morocco within the framework of discussions, current Arab political contacts on this summit, and ways of rendering it successful, in addition to efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity and gather the Arab nation.

Shaykh Hamdan said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid expressed his hope after the meeting that the Arab summit will take constructive steps that serve the goals of the Arab nation and strengthen its unity and solidarity.

He added that they also exchanged viewpoints on a number of Arab issues, foremost of which are new developments in the Palestine question and the Lebanese crisis.

His highness the UAE president affirmed on this issue the necessity of working with all seriousness to solve the Palestine question comprehensively and justly and take action to save the Lebanese people from their tribulation. His highness said that we should not stand aside and watch while a fraternal country burns. His highness

called for lifting foreign hands totally off this Arab country, leaving Lebanon to the Lebanese, and supporting the Arab league in this field.

Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid concluded his statement by saying that the talks between the two presidents, which took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, dealt with joint cooperation between the UAE and the Republic of Sudan and ways of developing fraternal relations and using them to achieve the joint goals and interests of the peoples of the two countries.

His highness the UAE president affirmed his concern over supporting Sudan and standing by its side. He pointed out that, with God's help, the Arab brothers will also help their brothers in Sudan to work for the good of this fraternal country so that it will lead its march toward a better future.

Sudanese Foreign Minister on Talks
JN1505201989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (WAKH)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, Sudanese first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] genuine Arab positions and its deep interest in the Arab nation's causes.

At a news conference held here this evening, the Sudanese minister said that his country is eager to promote its relations with all nations, especially the UAE.

He spoke of the situation in Sudan, saying that the Sudanese people have gone through many experiences, including wars and disasters, that the Sudanese people are fond of democracy and peace, that bringing about peace in the region is very important, that Sudan is a rich country but lacks stability, and that Sudan has no difficult problems and is open to the East and the West.

He added: We are seeking accord between us and the movement's leaderships, we have agreed on the basic issues, and the dialogue was 90-percent successful. He explained that a date has been set for a meeting to discuss all these issues. He added: During previous conferences we were able to convince these leaderships of the peace initiative and the need for a cease-fire. He also affirmed that the Sudanese Armed Forces welcomed the agreement with the movement to cease fire and that a military committee should be set up by the two sides to carry out the agreement.

President Receives DFLP Chief Hawatimah
JN1605144589 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met at the Presidential Court this morning Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who is currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting they reviewed the current Arab situation, developments in the Palestine issue on the Arab and international levels, and the blessed intifadah [uprising] being staged by the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

UK's Waldegrave Meets With Al-Shariqah Ruler
*JN1505102389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT
15 May 89*

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Dr Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Supreme Federal Council and Al-Shariqah ruler, this morning met with William Waldegrave, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, currently visiting the UAE.

The meeting was attended by Michael Tait, British ambassador to the UAE [name and title as received]. Bilateral relations were discussed.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the general situation in the region and the Arab arena in light of the current Arab, regional, and international developments.

Comments on Shamir's Plan
*JN1605190389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Al-Fujayrah, 16 May (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office who is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has affirmed the proximity of views of the UAE and Britain on international issues, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese problem, and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

At a news conference in Al-Fujayrah today, Waldegrave paid tribute to the strength of bilateral relations and said: "We always and continuously update our consultations with friends." He indicated that his UAE visit seeks to enhance and improve bilateral relations and discuss the special arrangements for the visit by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, to the United Kingdom in June.

Waldegrave also spoke of the Arab League's efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem—efforts that enjoy the support of both the United Kingdom and the EC.

Waldegrave added that he discussed with His Highness Shaykh Zayid the situation between Iraq and Iran and said that he agreed with him on the need to settle all Iraqi-Iranian differences.

On Shamir's recent proposals, the British minister said: "I believe that of the four elements proposed by Shamir, three lack the potential for making progress. The only element that can be considered is the one pertaining to elections".

The British minister referred to the existence of big gaps between the PLO and Israel, as the PLO is looking for stronger guarantees for peace. He added: "In general, elections can be viewed as a step to be followed by other satisfactory steps".

Information Minister Sees PRC Culture Official
*JN1605172989 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 16 (GNA)—Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid received today Chinese Deputy Culture Minister Liu Deyou.

Liu gave a letter to Shaykh Ahmad from his Chinese counterpart dealing with ways to boost cultural cooperation and containing an invitation to the minister to visit China.

Shaykh Ahmad accepted the invitation and a date is to be set for the visit.

During the meeting, Shaykh Ahmad said the UAE [United Arab Emirates] wanted to enhance cultural and information cooperation with China in light of its policy forged by President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and is aimed at expanding ties with friendly states in all field to serve world peace.

Liu in turn praised the UAE's policy on the world level which he said was based on championing world peace and the struggle of peoples for freedom and independence, especially the struggle of the Palestinian people.

He said China was keen to develop cultural cooperation with the UAE.

The Chinese deputy minister arrived here earlier today on a four-day official visit as part of a Gulf tour. He was received at the airport by Ministry of Information and Culture Assistant-Undersecretary 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Madfa'.

Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent Returns From Cairo
*JN1605192189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], returned to Abu Dhabi from Cairo this evening following a 4-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

During this visit, Shaykh Khalifah held important talks with the Egyptian president on topics pertaining to Egyptian-UAE cooperation and issues related to the Arab and Gulf regions. During the visit, Shaykh Khalifah was acquainted with Egypt's advanced production of various types of weapons. He attended an air show at the Bilbas Air Base and visited archeological and historical sites.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih, Al-Qadhdhafi Hold Telephone Conversation
JN1305201589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] A telephone contact has been held between Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. They reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Lebanon's Junblatt Arrives, Makes Statement
JN1605130989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and minister of public works, transport, and tourism, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to the Yemeni Arab Republic.

In a statement to SABA upon arrival, Junblatt said that he will brief brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the People's General Congress, on the difficult circumstances in Lebanon as well as the Lebanese national forces' position toward the deteriorating events in the Lebanese arena.

Junblatt was received at the airport by brother Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; brother Colonel 'Ali 'Utrub, member of the Standing Committee and head of the Civil Status Department; and a number of officials.

Meets With President Salih
JN1605131389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the People's General Congress, received in his office today Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and minister of public works, transport, and tourism. During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Lebanese arena as well as efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon. Then Junblatt briefed the president leader on the current situation in Lebanon and the fraternal Lebanese people's ordeal in light of the escalating conflict in the Lebanese arena. They also discussed the Lebanese national forces' positions on the events.

The president stressed the Yemeni Arab Republic's principled support for the fraternal Lebanese people and its eagerness to preserve Lebanon's unity and Arabism. He also affirmed our country's support for every effort to achieve peace and stability in Lebanon to guarantee

peaceful coexistence among all factions of the fraternal Lebanese people. He explained that as the solution to the Lebanese problem is an Arab responsibility, the greater responsibility lies with all the Lebanese leaderships. He stressed the need for the Arab leaderships to shoulder their responsibility, especially before the convening of the emergency Arab summit conference, and exert every effort to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and solve the Lebanese problem through just means that will guarantee Lebanon's stability, unity, and Arabism. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee.

Makes Statement, Departs Sanaa
JN1605200389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] A round of talks was held at the Standing Committee headquarters in Sanaa this afternoon between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [LPSP], which is headed by the two brothers Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asfahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; and LPSP leader Walid Junblatt.

In the course of their talks they reviewed bilateral relations between the GPC and the LPSP and means of bolstering them, in addition to discussing the developments and changes witnessed by the Arab and Lebanese arenas and the role demanded of them to crystallize the goals of our Arab nation and expectations on restoring its unity.

The Standing Committee secretary affirmed our country's concern over Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and Arab identity and the well-being of its people and land. He stressed the importance of the national unity of all the Lebanese powers to overcome the tribulations suffered by Lebanon and its people and to thwart the Zionist plans aimed at fragmenting Lebanon and erasing its Arab identity.

On his part, brother Walid Junblatt expressed his pride on our country's firm and principled stand on all Arab issues, including Lebanon's cause. He appreciated our country's interest in the Lebanese cause and its affirmation of the importance of achieving normal accord between the brothers of united Lebanon so that this people will regain their liberty and enjoy a peaceful and secure life.

The discussions were attended on the GPC side by brothers Assistant Standing Committee Secretary Ahmad al-'Imad and Standing Committee Member 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hatti and on the LPSP side by Turayd Yaghi, LPSP deputy head for foreign affairs.

Brother Walid Junblatt left Sanaa this afternoon after a short visit to our country during which he met with brother leader Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In a statement to SABA' news agency prior to departure, he described his visit as successful and positive. He said it is the start of a relationship he wished had started a long time ago. He expressed his hope that these relations will become firmer and that he will visit our country again as soon as possible. He stated that he had explained to the brother leader secretary general Lebanon's complicated circumstances. He hoped that everyone in Lebanon will reach an accord and solution within the framework of political reform and preserving Lebanon's Arab identity. He also expressed his hope that Arab leaders will take a serious and responsible stand on this subject in their next emergency summit to extricate Lebanon from this destructive whirlwind.

Concluding his statement, brother Walid Junblatt wished our people further achievements in all political, economic, and social fields under the guidance of its wise leadership and through its entrenched national unity. He expressed his pride over belonging to the Yemeni immigrations, which proceeded from Yemen's mountains and settled in Lebanon's mountains for the sake of Islam and Arabism.

He was seen off by brothers Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee, Colonel [name indistinct], member of the GPC and director of the Civil Registration Department, and a number of officials in the Standing Committee.

Saddam Sends Condolences on Mufti's Death
*JN1705113889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT
17 May 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a message of condolences to Sa'd 'al-Din Khalid, son of the late Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, who was assassinated yesterday. The message reads:

We were deeply grieved by the news of the ugly crime which took the life of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon. The perpetrators of this crime aim to continue to terrorize the sincere Lebanese who seek to save Lebanon through national dialogue and accord, and who are concerned about the pillars of Lebanon's independence and its national unity. While expressing our deep pain over this great loss that has befallen Lebanon, we extend to you our heartfelt condolences, wishing Lebanon and its people salvation from injustice and tyrants.

Industry Minister Confers With Soviet Official
*JN1605184689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met here today with Mr Maksimovich, secretary of the Soviet Ministry of Aviation Industry [name and title as received], and his delegation. They discussed ways to bolster relations of joint cooperation in industry, especially the military industry.

The minister stressed Iraq's intent to complete modern industrial programs that keep up with the major international developments in the fields of technology and scientific progress. He stressed Iraq's desire for a significant Soviet contribution to this task in light of the firm and established relations between the two countries.

The Soviet official expressed his admiration for the great progress of the Iraqi military industry as embodied in the Baghdad military industry fair.

INA, NOVOSTI Sign Cooperation Accord
*JN1605135789 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—INA and Soviet NOVOSTI News Agency concluded an agreement for bilateral press and information cooperation here today.

The accord, signed by INA's Director General 'Adnan al-Juburi and NOVOSTI's head of Mideast and Africa section, provides for exchange of information material, photos, journalist delegations, and documents and information which highlight economic and political achievements in Iraq and the Soviet Union.

It also calls for exchange of press articles and information over prominent world questions and providing facility to correspondents of the two agencies in both countries.

Oil Policy Agreement Reached With Algeria
*JN1705084889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT
17 May 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—Sadek Boussena, Algerian minister of energy and chemical and petrochemical industries, left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Boussena described the results of his visit as positive and fruitful. He said it has contributed to promoting cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the petrochemical industries and marketing fields.

In a statement to INA, the Algerian minister said that an agreement was reached to coordinate oil policies between Iraq and Algeria to maintain the stability of the oil market and reinforce the unity of OPEC, in which Iraq has a distinguished and great influence.

The Algerian minister stressed the OPEC member states' concern to stabilize the price of oil at \$18 per barrel, since this is a suitable price for the producing, exporting, and consumer countries.

During the visit, the Algerian minister held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; and with a number of ministers on means of promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Taha Yasin Ramadan Receives Sudanese Official
*JN1605150589 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's First Deputy Premier Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan Received here today Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Amin member of the Politbureau of the Democratic Unionist Party and Governor of the Sudanese Northern Province and his accompanying delegation.

The head of the Sudanese delegation expressed the appreciation of Sudan's government and people for the noble national attitudes of the Iraqi leadership particularly President Saddam Husayn for the support extended by Iraq to Sudan and the help to surpass the catastrophes and to achieve stability and national unity.

Mr al-Amin expressed his admiration of the campaign of reconstructing and beautifying the Iraqi city of Basra in a record time. He also praised the victories achieved by Iraq over the Iranian aggressors stressing that these victories had created new positive Arab atmospheres and they represented the beginning of an Arab comprehensive renaissance.

Mr Ramadan said that supporting the brotherly people in Sudan and in any Arab country is the principled policy of the 17-30 July revolution. He added that Iraq would continue this trend in practice of its national policies and to consolidate Arab solidarity.

Mr Ramadan stressed that achieving security, stability and national unity in Sudan and any other Arab country is a national duty because it contributes to achieve national security which is realized through stability and national unity of every Arab country.

Mr Ramadan reviewed the positive atmospheres witnessed by the Arab arena which started with the beginning of the Iraqi victory and the defeat of the Iranian aggression, referring to the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Arab-Maghreb Union.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad 17 May
JN1705100689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT
17 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], arrived in Baghdad today from Tehran.

The Yugoslav general's visit is one of the shuttle visits he makes between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the UN observers' work between the two sides.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Aspired Summit Resolutions
JN1605121289 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said the Arab nation aspires that the forthcoming emergency Arab summit would be dedicated for removing mines from the path of its awakening and serving its issues of destiny.

A daily commentary here today said the summit will be convened in atmospheres prevailed by sound dealing and understanding to the facts and bases of joint Arab action.

It stressed that establishing the Arab Cooperation Council between Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic came as a result to the decisive Iraqi victory in the war against the Iranian aggression. This is the first Arab summit to be held after founding the ACC. The Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council which constitute positive phenomena along the path of contemporary national awakening, it said.

It added that the Arab nation looks for adopting mandatory resolutions contributing to putting an end to the war waged by Syria against Lebanon, ending the Syrian occupation and helping Lebanon restore its national unity and sovereignty.

Al-Bakr Terminal To Receive Supertankers
JN1605120089 Baghdad INA in English 1125 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah announced that the Iraqi Al-Bakr terminal on the Arab Gulf would be ready to receive super tankers on the first of next month.

In a statement published by AL-THAWRAH daily here today, the minister said that prerequisites of putting the said terminal into operation would be finished at the end of this month and it would be ready to receive supertankers for exporting Iraqi oil products.

Al-Bakr terminal, a floating terminal, extending four kilometers inside the north-western tip of the Arab Gulf had been exposed to repeated attacks by the Iranian forces with the aim of occupying and destroying it but those attacks failed in achieving their objective against the terminal that remained out of action and heavily damaged throughout the eight years of war.

Mr Muhammad Hamzah the minister of transport and communications has given his statement after he made a tour of the said terminal yesterday.

Ports bodies continue their work also in order to complete requirements of preparing and operating the deep terminal during the coming period, he said.

Iraqi technicians and exports have managed till now to operate two major ports, namely, Umm Qasr and Al-Zubayr which began to receive and load vessels a few months after ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war on August 20, the minister pointed out.

The Iraqi minister also said that work is steadily under way to prepare the deep terminal which is also a floating one extending to a far distance inside the Arab Gulf waters opposite the Iraqi land.

Iraqi terminals were target of successive Iranian attacks along the eight years of war. The Iranian major attacks were aimed at destroying these ports and cutting Iraqi access to the Arab Gulf but those attacks failed to achieve their goals.

The most serious Iranian offensive was that which resulted in occupation of the Al-Faw town on the southern fringes of Iraq in 1986, but the Iranian troops remained besieged in the Al-Faw and surrounded by Iraqi troops. The Iranians could not occupy Al-Bakr terminal which is going to be operated at the beginning of next month.

Tehiya Submits No-Confidence Bid in Government

TA1505114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Tehiya faction has submitted to the Knesset a motion of no-confidence in the government due to the government's decision to hold elections in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza. On behalf of the faction, Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen says that the government's political plan will lead to the election of leaders of the uprising and the partitioning of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Tehiya believes that the plan will also encourage terrorism and bring about the establishment of a Palestinian state in the heart of Eretz Yisra'el.

Aides Say Shamir To Quit if Herut Backs Bid

TA1705063989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
17 May 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Officials in the Prime Minister's Office have made it unequivocally clear that if the Herut Central Committee approves a vote of no-confidence in Shamir in the wake of his political plan, the prime minister will quit office and disband the government. According to these officials, this would give Shim'on Peres the main chance of winning the premiership.

Commenting on this threat by the Prime Minister's Office, Yitzhaq Moda'i said: "I do not believe in Shamir's threats to quit." [passage omitted]

Shamir in 'Tense,' 'Charged' Session With Likud

TA1705111889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Before the Knesset debate, the Likud faction convened in an urgent session summoned for this morning to formulate a unanimous position in anticipation of the no-confidence motion. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir used very clear and unequivocal words in the meeting: We will not give even one inch of land to the Arabs, we will give them nothing; those involved in PLO activities will not be able to vote or be elected in the territories; there will be no negotiations on the implementation of the peace initiative under a state of intifadah [uprising]. These were the red lines set by the prime minister in the session of the Likud faction. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called on the Likud faction [for support] in light of the opposition of Ministers Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi to the peace initiative and in view of the threat of 13 Likud Knesset members [MK's] not to support his initiative if the faction is not convened earlier. Ministers Sharon and Moda'i, who attended the meeting, kept

quiet. Most of the criticism was leveled by MK's Gadot, Goldstein, Hurvitz, Grupper, Mikha'el Eytan, and Tzahi Hanegbi. Beni Begin came out in support of the peace initiative and Shamir.

At the end of the charged session, which lasted less than an hour, the prime minister was unequivocal and assertive. I cannot make do with recitations in the Knesset, he told his critics; in my capacity as prime minister I must take action. But there are no differences between us: There will be no negotiations with the PLO; not everybody will be able to participate in the elections in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza; those involved in PLO activities will neither vote nor be elected; and in a state of intifadah there will be no negotiations on the implementation of the peace process.

In my opinion, the prime minister clarified, the Arabs of East Jerusalem cannot take part in any process involving Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza, such as the elections. What is more, a territorial compromise is unrealistic, the prime minister emphasized; there is no such thing. Israel under the Likud's rule will not accept any pressure, not even internal pressure.

[Shamir] We will not conduct negotiations with the Arabs or other elements as long as there is violence in the area, as long as there is an intifadah. I wrote violence, rather than intifadah, in the document on purpose, but both mean the same. This is as clear as a bell, and do not try looking for mistakes on my part. We will not give even one inch of land to the Arabs, we will not give them anything. Period. I have never said anything to the contrary; we will not give them anything. We will conduct negotiations; indeed, we will conduct negotiations.

[Golan] Did the prime minister succeed with his tough words in persuading opponents of his initiative within the Likud? Pinhas Goldstein remarked that he did not like the veiled threat that if the plan were rejected you would go the president, and got a furious response from the prime minister.

[Shamir] Do you not know who spoke about going to the president? Did you not hear on the radio who made this proposal? What are you talking about?

[Golan] Pinhas Goldstein persevered: Is there no risk that a Palestinian state might be established?

[Shamir] Such a thing will never, ever happen. Let the tongue of anybody saying such a thing cleave to the roof of his mouth.

[Golan] From the tense conference room of the Likud faction, the prime minister rushed to the dais in the Knesset to present his peace initiative to the plenum. Only the vote at the end of the long day of discussions will reveal how big is the camp of the opponents in the Likud to the new peace initiative of the Israeli Government. [end recording]

Shamir Addresses Knesset on Peace Plan

TA1705092189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0810 GMT 17 May 89

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Knesset—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, members of the House:

On 14 May 1989, the Israeli Government approved a peace initiative, and I am honored to bring its main points to the Knesset.

The importance of this initiative lies primarily in the fact that Israel has presented its own proposal designed to bring about a peace agreement between us and our neighbors, in addition to Egypt. No less important is the fact that the Israeli Government is presenting a unanimous position of the major blocs and parties composing the government on an issue that is at the top of Israel's political objectives: achieving peace while safeguarding Israel's security.

The government is hereby telling the Israeli people and our neighbors, first and foremost the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, and all the countries of the world: We are united in our striving for peace, we are united in the proposal of a path leading to it, and of course, we are united in recognizing the security needs of Israel and its citizens.

With your permission, I will start by presenting the main points of the initiative dealing with the peace process, the termination of the state of war with the Arab countries; a solution for the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District; peace with Jordan; and a solution to the problem of the inhabitants of the refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. The guidelines of the initiative are based on national consensus: striving for peace, continuing the political process through direct negotiations according to the Camp David accords, opposition to another Palestinian state, opposition to negotiations with PLO, and no change in the status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District other than according to the government's basic guidelines. [indistinct heckling by Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah]

Commenting on the initiative, many people in Israel and around the world focused only on the issue of the proposed elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District of representatives of the Arab inhabitants. This is an important part of it, but I must direct the Knesset's attention to the first three parts of the initiative. First, to the Camp David agreement, which is only 10 years old. It is not obsolete, as many people around the world have been trying to argue. This agreement is binding on Israel and Egypt as well as on the United States. If this agreement is considered canceled, why take seriously any future agreement that may be signed tomorrow and be canceled by somebody the next day? On the contrary, we call for strengthening peace between Israel and Egypt

and constant mutual consultations concerning the continuation of the peace process. It is a pity that Egypt has not accepted the proposal to hold a meeting between the Egyptian president and myself to mark the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty. I hope the opportunity will come.

Second, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict lies in the refusal of the Arab countries, with the exception of Egypt since the signing of the peace treaty, to recognize Israel and maintain relations of peace with it. For example, every year we witness the futile Arab attempt at the United Nations to prevent recognition of Israel's credentials, which actually is an attempt to expel Israel from that organization. An inseparable and integral part of the peace process is the end of such negative spectacles, as well as a termination of the Arab boycott. All peace-seekers must lend a hand in persuading the Arab countries to mend their ways and end the state of war with Israel.

Third, a foremost humanitarian issue which has not been dealt with only through foolishness and denseness: The inhabitants of the refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District deserve—regardless of any political issue whatsoever or continuing political process—fair housing and rehabilitation. With the little resources available to it, Israel has done a great deal for many of them, but a proper and full solution requires international cooperation to raise the funds required. To this end, we call for an international financial effort to solve this humanitarian issue. These clauses in the initiative should be promoted together with other parts of the political process.

Members of the House, I will now move to that part of the initiative dealing with elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The initiative mentions two stages—a 5-year transitional period of an interim agreement to be followed by a final agreement—linked by a timetable and the principles of the process.

At this point, I would like to point out the following: Occasionally it is alleged that Israel or some elements in it are not interested in negotiations on a final solution. There is no bigger lie than that! Contrary to what may be the case in some of our neighboring countries, Israel always fulfills its international commitments. Such a commitment is contained in the Camp David accords and is reiterated in the current initiative. The difference between it and the Camp David accords is that elections are proposed before the detailed agreement on the interim solution in a bid to find appropriate interlocutors among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District with whom we have to live. The representatives to be elected are offered roles in the various phases: as negotiators on the interim agreement; as a self-rule authority after this has been attained; and if there is agreement, also as participants in the negotiations on the final agreement.

The transitional period mentioned in the initiative is 5 years long. A shorter period can in no way be a test of the coexistence and cooperation we need, and some even say it is too short. During this transitional period, the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District will be granted self-rule to run their own affairs, while Israel will continue to be responsible for security, foreign relations, and for everything pertaining to Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

Also, in the detailed negotiations on the interim agreement with the elected representatives, the issues pertaining to the transitional period will be discussed, including key questions concerning infrastructure and economy. If they so wish, Egypt and Jordan will be able to join these negotiations.

In the negotiations on the final agreement—which by the nature of things should also be joined by Jordan because the peace treaty with it would be signed in parallel—each side will be able to raise any issue it wants. The purpose of these negotiations, however, will be to attain a permanent solution acceptable to all the participants. Until this solution has been attained, the interim agreement will be in effect.

Needless to say, during the period of preparation and the elections themselves, there will be no violence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District—and I will return to this point.

After examining all the options, regional elections seem to us to be the most reasonable alternative. Of course, we must yet process the details, which include many important questions. The elections will be free, democratic, and secret—which is not such a common sight in the Middle East, actually being unprecedented, except for Israel. Anybody who presents his candidacy and is elected according to the rules to be specified and agreed on will be able to be part of the elected representatives. So much for the main points of the initiative.

Members of the House, the initiative is an entire package whose components are interrelated. Our neighbors are invited to join the proposed process, and we will not spare any effort to persuade them. They must know that the components of the initiative cannot be isolated. The proposed route, all its phases and stages, is logical, fair, and binding. Moreover, those joining the initiative should know that they must commit themselves to us and to the world at large with regard to this plan and all its implications. Of course, negotiations will have to be conducted on various details both before the elections and with the elected representatives concerning the interim agreement, but as far as we are concerned the route itself is clearly binding from beginning to end.

What are the consequent moves stemming from the initiative? As is written, a dialogue is necessary in order to reach an accord with the Arab inhabitants of Judaea,

Samaria, and the Gaza District. Of course, the United States and other friendly countries that may wish to join the efforts at persuasion are invited to do so. In parallel, the details of the proposals must be worked out. All these issues, which are not simple, still require a great deal of internal work. At the same time, we will be listening to the statements of our neighbors concerning their willingness to join the initiative. So far from the Arab side, ever since this initiative was published during my visit to the United States at the beginning of April, we heard voices of opposition and rejection of the entire plan. We do not view these voices as the final word, since to the best of our knowledge this initiative includes fair, sincere, and realistic proposals for settling the dispute between us and our neighbors.

Our neighbors are facing a dilemma on where to head: on a course of negotiations or to continue the violence. It is our duty to do our best to prove to them that violence is not an alternative and will only lead to disaster and destruction. The only way is that of negotiations and peace. The PLO's statement of rejection is none of our business. Our proposals are not directed at them. We know that they are not interested in peace. Our call is addressed to our neighbors, the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. The United States—its government, legislative institutions, and public opinion—has greeted the plan with clear sympathy. The Jews of the United States and all over the world stand united by our side. Many countries have shown great interest and sympathy.

Negotiations have not yet started with any outside element over the implementation of the initiative, which is still food for thought and discussion in the international arena. It is too early to determine whether this initiative will become reality. That is why it is still too early and is not justified to turn this issue into an internal fight. Such an unnecessary fight will only encourage our enemies and make them happy.

Knesset Members, these days we are all aware of the feelings of a large sector in Israel that is interested, first and foremost, in a deadly war against terror and violence, the manifestations of which are apparent daily on the roads, in the streets, and in the heart of towns, too. This war, which is waged by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF], the Israel Police, and the other security forces, is an integral part of our historic struggle for existence on this land, in the dispute that has been imposed on us and that has not ended yet. This war will continue, and we shall also win. Contrary to instances cited to us regarding other peoples, we are here in our homeland, we have no other land, and we shall unhesitatingly liquidate those who seek to kill us. Also, they will annihilate themselves in their internal murders. It is true, though, that we operate under limitations that do not apply to the people who wield violence and terror. We are a state of laws and a society with values which, regrettably, are not paralleled in the people surrounding us. Still, we will win this war. It is our duty to our people and future to do so. One

should not be seized by ephemeral phenomena. We are strong and stronger than our enemies. There is no doubt that we shall have the upper hand.

Knesset Members, every constructive criticism is legitimate. I willingly accept harsh remarks I hear from various directions. Still, there is a difference between, on the one hand, shouldering the daily, overall national mission, shouldering the responsibility for our international relations with both near and distant neighbors and for maximum cooperation among the various segments of the people; and on the other, the adoption of positions that only a person free of all this responsibility can afford. There is no doubt that we have embarked on a road that has many risks too, but it has a chance. We will have to prevent and stop the risks, the worst of which is attempts by elements who will be involved in the elections to deviate from the mandate that will be agreed upon. We shall definitely see to that. At the same time, as for the risks still ahead, one should add that compared to the time of the Camp David accords, the level of risk today is lower since we have 80,000 Jewish settlers in Judea and Samaria—may they increase tenfold—many more than we had during the Camp David days.

Knesset Members, last week we marked the 41st anniversary of our revived independence. In about 2 weeks we shall mark the 22d anniversary of the reunification of our sovereign capital, Jerusalem. What unites us is the incessant effort for the advancement and prosperity of the State of Israel. From here, from Jerusalem our capital, we are telling all the citizens and residents of Israel that the Israeli Government will do everything humanly possible to guarantee security in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el, with all legal means at our disposal. At the same time, the government will also act tirelessly to promote peace with our neighbors.

These two things do not contradict each other. On the contrary, they complement each other. Allow me to quote—and do not wonder at this—Ya'aqov Hazan [former Knesset member of the United Workers Party], who was awarded the Israel prize a few days ago for his special contribution to the country and society. Let me also seize this opportunity to wish him longevity on his 90th birthday. During the ceremony he said, and I am quoting: When the Zionist Congress was held in Israel and Menahem Begin and I were entrusted with concluding it, I took the podium and said: The thing that unites us is love of Israel; it is only on this basis that we can cooperate. As then, now too, we sit together, people with different and sometimes even opposing views, but still, the love for our people and the concern for its future is the uniting factor for all of us. I agree with every word said by Ya'aqov Hazan.

Knesset Members, let me mention verses by the poet of Psalms: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! This is indeed the correct combination of our national goals: strength and peace.

In conclusion, let me return to the point of unity, Jewish and national unity which was one of the main motives, in my view, behind the establishment of the present government and the consolidation of the initiative we are looking at now. In the history of our people, we have known years of success and prosperity during times of unity, while we have known disasters and evils during days of dissension. Our strength lies only in our unity in the face of enemies who seek our souls, deluding themselves that they shall shortly stand at the gates of Jerusalem. The truth is that we shall stand at the gates of the united Jerusalem from now and forever, with God's help, united and faithful to our goals.

No-Confidence Motion Defeated

TA1705163089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] A short while ago, in the absence of about 50 percent of the Likud faction, the Knesset rejected the no-confidence motion submitted by the Tehiya faction. The prime minister announced that the political statement he made this morning is part of the no-confidence debate, and there would therefore be no separate vote on this statement.

As for the no-confidence motion, our correspondent in the Knesset Yo'el Nir reports that 43 of the house members voted against the motion, while 15—including members of Agudat Yisra'el who are part of the coalition—voted in favor. There were 11 abstentions, including Knesset members from MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, and CRM [Citizens Rights Movement].

The supporters of the no-confidence motion included Hanan Porat from the National Religious Party; Knesset Member Yiga'el Hurvitz abstained, while Mikha'el Eytan from the Likud was present at the plenum, but did not vote.

Our correspondent notes that several Likud faction members are now participating in a gathering at Minister Sharon's house in East Jerusalem.

Sharon Convenes Likud Activists, Criticizes Plan

TA1705163989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] This evening, Minister Ari'el Sharon convened some 30 Likud activists, including Knesset members and mayors, at his East Jerusalem residence. Minister Sharon told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the meeting is not directed against Prime Minister Shamir. At the same time, he leveled criticism at the peace initiative saying that there are differences between the tone of the declarations and the plan's written contents. He remonstrated particularly at the fact that the plan does not make the elections contingent on ending the terror.

According to Minister Sharon, everything hangs on the question of Jerusalem, which is the reason for his gathering the Likud activists at his house in East Jerusalem.

Sharon: Elections in Jerusalem 'Do-or-Die' Issue
TA1205121289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
12 May 89 p 2

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Hayim Shibi on 11 May; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Sharon says he will take action to thwart the elections plan in the territories. According to him, "this is a disastrous plan. It merely momentarily stems outside political pressure. There is a feeling of relief, and that is important. But the process in the field has not stopped, and what is happening in the field is that a Palestinian state is emerging. I am warning against a deviation from the Camp David accords. We violate those accords through these proposed elections. The moment we violate them, everybody can do the same.

"The moment Israel agrees to international supervision, the process begins of tying our hands in terms of anti-terror activities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The distance between a small and a large number of supervisors, between a few U.S. Congressmen and a multinational force, is only a matter of time once the principle has been violated. If that is what happens, it will be hard to take preemptive action against terror and murder and to pursue murderers. Who says they will suffice with only supervising the elections? [passage omitted]

[Shibi] Washington has bought the idea of elections. Do you think America wants to see a Palestinian state here?

[Sharon] Gradually, not at once; gradually, definitely yes.

Elections in Jerusalem? Jerusalem is the crux of the problem, it is a do-or-die issue. Most terrorist leaders operate out of Jerusalem, including quite a few who are being courted by our politicians ad nauseam. Today we know about all of them. Today they do not dare do anything. These people, who are responsible for spilling Jewish blood, will receive legitimization in the elections.

I have been raising this hue and cry for years. I spoke about Sari Nusaybah, Hanna Sinyurah, and Faysal al-Husayni in the Cabinet. But instead, these men are being courted and have become the most popular figures at every pretentious Israeli salon.

Legislation must be enacted at once to terminate the activities of 84 organizations in East Jerusalem used as a front by the PLO. Legislation must be enacted that would deprive the leaders of the terror organizations the protection accorded by Israeli democracy. This must be

done in the name of, and in order to protect, Israeli democracy. Jews must settle in East Jerusalem. Jewish life must be introduced into every corner.

[Shibi] What would have happened if you had been the defense minister?

[Sharon] Such a thing, such an intifadah [uprising], would not have happened to me; I would not have had such a large number of Arab fatalities. I have experience in similar situations, albeit on the military rather than on the political level. In the seventies in Gaza, the situation was far more entangled than it is now. [passage omitted]

[Shibi] Israel is indirectly talking to the PLO. Where is this leading to?

[Sharon] As long as the terror organizations exist, there can be no peace. Let us assume for a moment that we were tempted and accepted—something I still believe will not happen—an agreement with 'Arafat. 'Arafat only controls and gives operative instructions to Fatah. And what about Habash, Jibril, Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], Hawatimah, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Tal'at Ya'qub, Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]? They would operate against us, Israel would retaliate, and the circle of hostility would intensify. The problem is, however, that we have grown weaker in the meantime.

[Shibi] Do you propose to do 'Arafat in?

[Sharon] From the point of view of Israel, as well as that of the Palestinians, the Middle East, and the world at large it would be a great help if the leaders of the murderous PLO organizations were not in this area at all. This was true in the past, and I think it also holds true today.

Netanyahu: End of 'Terror' Required for Plan
TA1605062589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 16 May 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] We have heard the PLO's immediate and almost unequivocal reaction. How do you evaluate it?

[Netanyahu] I am not surprised. I think it was obvious from the start that the PLO objects to any initiative for truly free elections. It may be interested in holding a plebiscite that would result in the election of its puppets, but certainly not in free elections held by residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. That would be the last thing in which the PLO is interested. [passage omitted]

[Mardor] Israel has shown that it has a peace plan, but beyond that, what kind of partner does it have for such a plan?

[Netanyahu] The possible partners reside in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, provided the terror conditions prevailing there are removed.

[Mardor] There is the manifesto of the 80 notables rejecting the election concept.

[Netanyahu] I am certain there are various manifestos that the PLO has disseminated, but we are not talking about either manifestos or PLO-initiated underground acts. What we are discussing is enabling those Arab residents to participate in free elections. What can be simpler than this? This is the basis of the fourth clause of the prime minister's and the Israeli Government's initiative. If the PLO objects to it, this is an obstacle we will have to overcome, and the way to do that is not through seeking PLO consent. Even if we assume that the PLO announces that it will suspend terror for a few weeks, the PLO gun pointed at the heads of residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will still remain cocked. The terror and threat will be still there. Free elections mean that the population is free from the threat of terror apparatuses. This is an absolute condition for the implementation of this principle. [passage omitted]

Peres Interviewed on Peace Plan, PLO Rejection

TA1605060189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 16 May 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister speaking from Milan, by Arye Golan—live]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is now on the line from Milan, Italy. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Golan] Before we address the issue of the high consumer price index, which rose 2.6 percent last month, we would like to hear your reaction to the PLO Executive Committee's rejection of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. In your opinion, does this rejection harm or even eliminate the initiative?

[Peres] I do not think so. I must admit I was somewhat surprised when I heard the formulation of the decision, because the Palestinians' legitimate rights are mentioned very explicitly in the Camp David accords, which refer to the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. [last six words in English] Since the plan is based on the Camp David accords, the PLO contention is somewhat out of context.

[Golan] The question is whether this PLO statement will prevent local Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—perhaps even some of the people who met yesterday with Defense Minister Rabin—from making the courageous act of voting and being themselves elected to the local Palestinian representation.

[Peres] The plan will no doubt encounter more than a few difficulties, but at this time it cannot be described as dead. It has just begun its life and will have to confront various opinions and stands. We have to make the necessary effort to turn it into reality.

[Golan] Will that effort stand a chance? We heard that Defense Minister Rabin was told by Palestinian notables yesterday: Talk to the PLO, they are your interlocutors. At least some of them said that.

[Peres] That is not very surprising, either. Things like that have happened before. To mention only one case, there were the 1976 municipal elections in Judaea and Samaria, which started out in a similar way. Initial opposition, however, was followed by a neutral attitude. I am not saying that the same will happen this time, but I would certainly abstain from jumping to premature conclusions.

[Golan] [passage indistinct caused by problems in telephone connection] You were saying you were not surprised by the municipal election results in 1976, either.

[Peres] No, no, what I said was that in 1976, too, the PLO objected at first, and people thought that the elections would not be held. Afterward, the Palestinian stand underwent a change. I am not saying the same will be repeated now, because nothing is automatic in political matters, but it is definitely too soon to conclude that the plan is dead.

By the way, I would like to add something. This morning I heard you quoting me on the radio as saying that I am in favor of international supervision. This is not what I said. What I did say was that I am in favor of outside observers, and I also noted that we must differentiate between observers and supervision. I further noted that Israel is an open country and that the many journalists are, in fact, the best observers, since even now they are authorized to cover any event in Israel. It will certainly be possible to cover an event such as the elections. We do not intend to conceal anything; in any event, we have nothing to hide. We intend to hold genuine elections that will be properly democratic. [passage omitted]

Peres on Palestinian Position

TA1705050689 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in English 0400 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres says his impression is that the Arabs have not rejected the Israeli peace initiative and are trying to make a balanced decision. Peres was speaking after meeting with U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross last night in Tel Aviv. Peres returned to Israel last night after a brief visit to Italy. Le'a Zinder reports.

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Shim'on Peres drove directly for the airport to his meeting with special U.S. envoy Dennis Ross. Peres said it was his impression after the meeting that there is a chance that the Arabs will accept the Israeli peace initiative.

[Peres] There is an attempt to really make a balanced decision. Surely in the eyes of some of the Arabs there are many elements which are missing. They would like to have much more assurances. But while they didn't decide to accept the plan, there is not yet a decision to reject it.

[Zinder] While he was in Italy, Shim'on Peres addressed the congress of the Republican Party, traditionally friendly to Israel, and was received warmly and given a standing ovation. Peres was also a guest of the congress of the Socialist Party in Italy, a party which has gone a long way toward supporting the PLO.

[Peres] While it was a little bit more reserved, there too they gave a standing ovation to the message. And, I felt that, at least one may say: Well, let's have a good look at the Israeli initiative. Again, I don't claim that they have accepted it, but they did not turn a blind eye on it.

[Zinder] Peres said representatives of the PLO who were in the audience of the socialist congress did not leave the hall when he got up to speak as they usually do. He cannot judge the significance of this, he said, but he is pleased that his message reached them. [end recording]

Moda'i Urges Shamir, Peres To Resign

TA1605113489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i calls on the prime minister and the vice prime minister to resign, because, in his opinion, the political plan contradicts both parties' platforms.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, in a conversation with reporters in Tel Aviv, Minister Moda'i said that if the Likud Central Committee is convened to discuss the political plan the delegates will decide to reject it.

Regional Elections To Prevent Single Party

TA1505083289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 15 May 89 p 10

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The government hopes that "regional elections" in the territories will ensure an equitable distribution of elected delegates—but also that they will prevent the establishment of a single, territories-wide political party.

The elections will thus be political—and not municipal—in nature, meaning that the candidates will be elected for the sole purposes outlined in the peace initiative.

Supporters of the regional scheme claim that it will prevent distorted election results—ensuring, for example, that the elected list contains a suitably proportionate number of delegates from the West Bank and from the Gaza Strip.

But they also hope that the partition of the territories into voting regions will prevent the establishment of a single territories-wide list—thus reducing the possibility of influence by outside parties—namely, the PLO.

The Foreign, Defence and Interior Ministries will now formulate proposals on the number of regions, the number of candidates to be elected in each region, the minimum age of both voters and candidates, and the like.

The thorniest issue in the elections scheme—East Jerusalem—is left unmentioned in the document, and is most likely to be left unresolved until the end of the formulation process. Shamir and the Likud are unlikely to yield on this matter in any circumstances, but certainly not before they are sure that Palestinians have accepted the elections scheme. The Palestinians are unlikely to accept any plan that excludes East Jerusalem.

Most officials thus foresee active American involvement—and pressure—in the effort to produce a mutually acceptable formula on East Jerusalem.

Plan Seen Only as 'Operational Guidelines'

TA1505150489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
15 May 89 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Government Has Circumvented 15 Land Mines"]

[Text] There were 15 land mines buried on the doorstep of the clause on the elections, which is one of the resolutions made by the government yesterday. The resolutions ranged from stopping the intifadah [uprising] as a precondition for elections to supervising them. These mines were circumvented by an agreement to avoid them until the Palestinians agree to accept the principle of a transitional arrangement, to be determined in negotiations between the Israeli Government and the local inhabitants (and not the PLO in Tunisia) in order to allow them to elect a representation for negotiations with Israel.

Nevertheless, the government has just managed to avoid a dispute on the procedures of the elections, which are but a single item on the four pages of resolutions, but has

already stepped on a land mine which diverted attention to the side track of debates over the procedures of the elections; namely, the land mines the government has been trying to side step.

The government has failed in explaining its plan. The instructions concerning the 10 regional elections is merely a clause in the bulk of political guidelines the government has set for itself. It is no accident, therefore, that 'Ezer Weizman, who preaches for talks with 'Arafat, objects to them. They clearly stipulate that no dialogue will be held with the PLO. By the same token, Ari'el Sharon refrains from supporting them because they include a decision that repeats and stipulates that according to the government guidelines no territories would be annexed.

After all, Sharon has called for the annexation of all Jewish settlements and all vacant Jewish land in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. In fact, the language of the resolutions leaves no room for doubt that they are not a plan to be presented at the negotiating table, but rather are principles that would guide those who would hold negotiations with the Palestinians, if indeed the latter arrive at that table.

There was a need to put order into the chaotic ministerial Tower of Babel where the ministers often sound contradicting slogans. There was a need to stress that no negotiations will be held with the PLO due to the fact that some ministers were quick to tell foreign elements that Israel will have no choice but to enter talks with 'Arafat. The majority of the government made it clear to all that these isolated statements lack a substantive stronghold in Israel's decisionmaking body.

The document approved by the government yesterday is not perfect. There are too many patches in it; both in terms of style and content. The patches are the price paid for coalition haggling. It would have been better to begin it with Shamir's four-point plan as it was presented to President Bush, and not conceal it among the other resolutions. It would have been better to state that the to-be-elected Palestinian representation would have the exclusive right to hold negotiations on the final arrangement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and not present it as the "central body in the negotiations process."

This provides for the increasing appetite of the Palestinians abroad. To defeat this trend there is the reservation saying that only he who accepts the plan with all of its details—including the principle of a transitional arrangement and the exclusion of the PLO—would be allowed to participate in the elections. This clause blocks the way for 'Arafat and his men. In its resolutions yesterday, the government did not present a set of terms for the PLO; not directly nor indirectly. It set operational guidelines for itself.

The PLO will not agree to be left out of the negotiating process and cannot accept the principle that Palestinian participation in the elections hinges on a priority acceptance of autonomy as an interim solution. Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has said in an interview that Israel is thus trying to drive a wedge between the PLO and the Palestinians in the territories, but 'Arafat, who has learned from the WHO resolution that the PLO will not be able to make progress in the international arena in the face of U.S. opposition, is trying to soften the U.S. position by adopting an image of moderation and the misleading formula of agreement to elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza "under certain conditions."

In the wake of the U.S.-Soviet agreement on Namibia, he wants the "Namibian formula" to be applied to Israel. In other words, to make sure in advance that the final arrangement benefits him. This apparent agreement of the PLO allows the Soviet Union, its supporter, to display "openness" to the point of portraying the rejection of the "Shamir plan" as willingness to compromise on the question of elections.

The government's inadequate public relations in the presentation of its comprehensive plan makes the Soviet-PLO ploy easier. The Americans, who are looking for formulas to compensate Gorbachev for his concessions on arms limitations, are not prepared to give up on short-range missiles in Europe but have no compunctions when it comes to making gestures to the Soviets at Israel's expense. This is the reason for the U.S. denunciation of the settlements the day after the United States prevented the acceptance of the PLO into the WHO. The balancing act was to be expected; the Americans needed it in order to allay the PLO, seeing that it is a prominent Soviet client in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, in yesterday's session the cabinet did not decide on a plan for elections but on a political plan which is one package and in which there is no room for the PLO. At this point, the eruption of an argument in Israel over the Arabs of East Jerusalem or clarifications with the Americans on the international supervision or with the Soviet Union about an international conference as the venue for negotiations on the final agreement might blur the real significance of the cabinet resolutions. These do not entail a solution to the intifadah.

On the contrary, this might escalate as the deliberations on the implementation of the plan gather momentum. The cabinet resolutions are not meant to resolve the question of "land for peace." They only have one purpose: To budge the political process toward an interim solution in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza seeing that Egypt refuses to play any part in the establishment of an autonomy in keeping with its commitments in the Camp David accords.

U.S. Support Complicating 'Road to Peace'
TA1605185489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
16 May 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Shamir's Plan, Ratified by His Government, Is an Attempt To Break the Siege Around Israel"]

[Text] The plan ratified by the Israeli Government the day before yesterday by a majority of 20 votes against six, which it described as a new political initiative on its behalf to address the continuation of the peace process in the region, does not go beyond a traditional repetition of the old Camp David Plan which is rejected out of hand by the PLO and all the Arab states, in addition to its widespread international rejection.

The PLO has made plain in its ongoing peace initiative that the international conference, with the participation of all states concerned, including Palestine, is the only way to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. This initiative received enormous acceptance by the entire world, greatly distressing Israel, and laying siege to it by even its close friends.

Observers are noting in this context that the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which his government finally ratified after two continuous months of propaganda uproar, is in all its proclaimed clauses and points, an attempt by this government to break the siege around it. It is an attempt to gain more time to carry out any steps that it might be pressured into taking.

If this attempt is exposed in all its dimensions and indications, that leave no serious opportunity for peace, its gravity clearly stems from U.S. support for it. Is it logical that Washington be a major party participating in making peace at a time when the administration of President George Bush is totally biased in favor of the Israeli side? And is it logical for Washington to emphasize the Israeli plan, and talk about its clauses and sections as if it were a "fait accompli" with no other options? Is this logical at a time when Washington itself knows that its official dialogue with the PLO was basically established from the beginning on the acknowledgement of the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people everywhere, foremost of which is their right to self-determination on their land?

Shamir's plan, or the Israeli Government's present plan, will not contribute to any peace. As long as U.S. support for this plan remains it will further complicate the road to peace, justice, and right in this region.

Goren on Policy Changes Since Gaza Curfew
TA1705122589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, has said that there has been a fundamental change in the Defense Ministry's policy.

Henceforth, there will not be any across-the-board permit to leave the Gaza Strip; rather, personal exit permits will be issued for legitimate purposes, as he phrased it. Mr Goren pointed out that in the next stage a similar policy will be enforced concerning the exit of inhabitants from Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the coordinator of government activities in the territories was addressing the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee. The committee discussed today the enforcement of the law pertaining to the entry into and presence in Israel of inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. According to Mr Goren, the Defense Ministry will be willing to extend the hours during which sleeping over in Israel is barred, if the police so request.

Deputy Labor and Welfare Minister Moshe Ze'ev Feldman said in the session that 60,000 inhabitants of the territories are illegally employed in Israel. Uri'el Linn, the committee chairman, said the ban on sleeping over in Israel is largely violated, and noted that the defense and police affairs ministers are responsible for that.

Entry Ban on West Bank Intended

TA1705105689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] The Defense and Police Affairs Ministries intend to ban the entry of Judaea and Samaria Arabs into Israel. Our correspondent in Jerusalem Mikha'el Birenhack has the details:

A far-reaching change in principle: this is how members of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee view the policy of the Defense and Police Affairs Ministries. They heard from these ministries' representatives that a general ban will be imposed on the entry of Gaza residents into Israel. There is also an intention to extend this ban to Judaea and Samaria. Knesset Member Uri'el Linn, chairman of the committee, said that as for Judaea and Samaria it is more difficult to supervise matters; he added that this new policy will be introduced but that it is impossible to implement it immediately. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Gaza Curfew

TA1605170789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Rabin said today that the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip working in Israel will occasionally be ordered to return to their homes when a curfew is imposed. The residents working in Israel must understand that these steps apply to them as well.

[Begin Rabin recording] Without getting too detailed about the objectives of the curfew, the real intention was to make it clear to the residents of the territories that permission to move freely and work in Israel should not be taken for granted. [end recording]

[Passage omitted] Rabin also addressed the destruction of houses in the territories over the last few days. Rabin said that the activity against internal Palestinian terror has always been a top priority. Last month witnessed the uncovering of squads that attacked those suspected of collaborating with Israel, and that is why houses belonging to members of these squads were demolished or sealed.

[Begin Rabin recording] And we intend to frequently conduct these operations to send a clear message. This message being that we will not tolerate internal attacks among the Palestinians, just as we will not tolerate attacks on Israelis. [end recording]

The defense minister today visited a training base belonging to the Ground Forces Command in central Israel. Also participating in the tour were Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, Commander of the Ground Forces Major General Uri Sagi, and other senior officers.

The defense minister saw an exhibition of new armaments and various exercises.

Israelis, Palestinians Meet With U.S. Official

Shamir Urges Accord With Arabs

TA1605173289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The United States intends to pursue its efforts to convince the sides to agree to Israel's peace initiative. This was said a short time ago by Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. delegation, following their meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The U.S. delegation's meeting with the prime minister lasted for approximately 1 and 1/2 hours and ended several minutes ago. The Americans devoted most of the meeting to briefing the Israelis about Jordan's and Egypt's reactions to the plan. The Americans emphasized that as yet there is no unequivocal reaction from Jordan to the plan, but at the same time it has not rejected it. They also emphasized that the United States stands behind this plan. This is what Dennis Ross told us after the meeting ended:

[Ross, speaking in English] I think that we have had several days of serious discussions in the region. We find these discussions encouraging; they give us a reason to believe that there is a potential opportunity.

[Gutman, translating] Dennis Ross said that the United States intends to work hard to make use of this opportunity. Prime Minister Shamir emphasized during the meeting that we should also reach an agreement with all the Arab states, not only with the Palestinians. It has also been agreed that the talks will be pursued, although it was not determined at what level. [end recording]

Meridor on Meeting

TA1605181189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Gay Zohar and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Meridor] The Americans serve as a very important indicator. If the Arabs in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are convinced by the Americans—by Mr Ross, who just spoke with them, or by others—that the United States will not give them more than what was suggested in our plan, if they are convinced that continuation of the intifadah [uprising] will not bring them any accomplishments, and that this is the only option that really exists, then there is a chance that they will stop to think seriously about things. They can decide whether they want to perpetuate the present difficult situation, or choose what we offered them.

[Mardor] And you think the Americans will indeed issue such statements, or statements in that spirit?

[Meridor] When I spoke with Dennis Ross upon his arrival in Israel a few days ago, and asked him to say these things to the Palestinians he was due to meet, it was my feeling that he would indeed do so. Yesterday I was told that in his previous meeting with the Palestinians that is more or less what he said. I hope the U.S. perseveres with this approach. I hope contradictory signals will not come from Washington. It is very important that this be the only signal the Arabs receive. If it is clear to them that this is the American position, and that this position is unchangeable; if they see that the intifadah does not bring better results than an election process, then, and only then, will there exist basic conditions for sobering up and becoming reasonable. The residents of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip could then perhaps come to a decision.

[Mardor] But we still have the impression that the Americans are waiting for clarifications regarding the political initiative. For example, what about the issue of the East Jerusalem Arabs? Or international supervision?

[Meridor] I think we would be making a very serious mistake if we were to get involved in discussing details before the Arab parties in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—or Egypt and Jordan if they are so inclined—have even accepted the principles we set forth in our decision. It is very easy to get into internal confrontations in Israel. It is just as easy to get into a quarrel with the

United States. That is why it would be a mistake. Discussions as to the specific details you mentioned will be worthwhile only when there is agreement on the Arab side.

What the PLO will try and do is to cause friction between us and the Americans, and we must not fall into this trap.

[Zohar] Minister Meridor, Minister Moda'i has asked the prime minister to go back to the public and call new elections because Moda'i feels that the political plan differs from the Likud's platform on the eve of the elections. What is your opinion?

[Meridor] I will not react to statements of other ministers. I never do this and I will not depart from my custom now. I will only say that in my opinion this plan is based on the Camp David accords, and this is stated in the plan. I think that this is the way it was presented to the Cabinet, and I hope that this is also the way we can promote it.

[Zohar] Thank you Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

Palestinians on Meeting

JN1605171089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1430 GMT 16 May 89

[Ibrahim Shahid dispatch; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The U.S. delegation headed by Dennis Ross, head of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, and in the presence of U.S. Ambassador in Israel William Brown and U.S. Consul General Phillip Wilcox, met for 2 hours with the Palestinians Dr Sari Nusaybah, Lawyer Ziyad Abu Zayyad, 'Izz al-Din al-'Aryan, Dr Zakariya al-Agha, and Mrs Zahirah Kamal at the National Hotel in East Jerusalem.

The members of the American delegation left the hotel without talking to reporters.

On this meeting, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad talked to us first.

"We explained to the American delegation our point of view concerning the situation in the occupied territories, the intifadah [uprising], and the Israeli practices. We protested against the detention of our colleague Ghassan Khatib and his being prevented from attending the meeting. We clarified our stand concerning Shamir's plan and said that it is unacceptable to the Palestinians. We asked the Americans to respond to the Palestinian peace plan because it is not right that the Palestinians are always placed in the position of reacting. This is because the Palestinian peace plan has been proposed and presented. It should be treated and responded to seriously."

And on the discussion of the focal point in this meeting, which is the election plan in the occupied territories, Dr Zakariya al-Agha said:

"We made it clear to him that we do not reject elections in principle. But these elections are one thing and Shamir's plan is a totally different thing. We are not opposed to democracy, but we cannot enter a tunnel when we do not know where it ends. We accept elections so long as they are a part of a comprehensive project to solve the cause, the beginning and end of which are known in advance."

We asked Ziyad Abu Zayyad about the meeting last Sunday at the home of the U.S. consul to which 15 Palestinians were invited and only 4 attended.

"The planned meeting was a social and lunch meeting at the U.S. consul's home. We are not concerned with social parties or lunches. We said that if the Americans want to hear the Palestinian point of view, there should be a serious basis for that. They should hear us calmly and not in feasts, parties, and celebrations."

And about the memorandum which followed the absence of most of the invitees to the Sunday meeting with Ross, Dr Al-Agha says:

"We clarified in the memorandum which we sent on that day, Sunday, that we are not opposed to U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and not opposed to dialogue with the United States. On this basis, we invited the head of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff and accompanying delegation to meet with us today."

What impression did 'Izz al-Din al-'Aryan emerge with today from the meeting with the U.S. delegation members?

"It seems that the Americans are concerned with the Palestine question. We expressed our point of view to the Americans on all the incidents of the occupied territories. The Americans expressed their point of view that there should be a start to the dialogue. However, we pointed out that every person represents himself only and our legitimate representative is the PLO. We hope that the dialogue [preceding word in English] between the PLO and the Americans will continue. We also hope that this dialogue will be elevated to a higher level and take place in Washington so that it would be characterized by the seriousness it deserves from the Americans."

West Bank Figures Discuss Meeting With Rabin

JN1605154189 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab
World 0930 GMT 16 May 89

[From "With the Middy Events" program]

[Text] Fifteen West Bank Palestinians met with Yitzhaq Rabin, minister of defense affairs; Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories; and Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration, last night. Our colleague Ibrahim Shahid interviewed by telephone two of those who attended the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Haj Subhi al-'Anabtawi, God bless you. We contacted you late regarding yesterday's meeting with Rabin, minister of defense affairs; Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories; and Shay Erez, head of the Judea and Samaria Civil Administration. Could we ask you about the meaning of these recurring meetings?

[Al-'Anabtawi] In fact, one can benefit from these meetings. We can trace the way the military rule or the Israeli Government thinks. We can trace the way they think. If you would like to know our view, as representatives, on what was proposed yesterday, we can say that Rabin came to the wrong address, because the representative is well known. It is the PLO, and it is the only side that can carry out any agreement. Second, it is well known that the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip represent only 30 percent of Palestinians in the world. Therefore, I do not believe that the minority can represent the majority.

[Shahid] Haj Subhi, I would like to recall Justice Minister Meridor's statement yesterday. He said: The ball is now in the Palestinian court in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that they should seize this opportunity to hold elections and elect authentic representatives.

What is your reaction?

[Al-'Anabtawi] I have not yet studied the details of the new Israeli initiative. I believe that if we study the initiative, we can frankly express our view on it.

[Shahid] Thank you Haj Subhi.

[Al-'Anabtawi] Thank you.

[Shahid] Mr Sa'id Kan'an, we would like to ask you about the recent meeting between Palestinians from the territories and the defense minister.

[Kan'an] Yesterday we were summoned to meet with General Shay Erez in Bayt Il. We were not told that we would meet with General Rabin. We were surprised by his presence. However, he began his conversation by explaining Shamir's elections initiative. He said that it is aimed at finding a way to move toward a just solution on the basis of the policy of phases. He also said that the initiative is based on two phases lasting 5 years. The first is the preparatory phase, which will last 3 years, during which political elections will be held to elect the Palestinian side to the process. The second phase will begin after 3 years and will last 2 years, during which negotiations on the final solution will be held. He added that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the framework of the negotiations.

Then he explained Shamir's initiative in detail, and asked for our views. Frankly, most of those who attended the meeting said that the PLO is the only authorized side

that can hold any dialogue or negotiations or can comment on this initiative. We also told him that we support democratic elections in principle and that these elections cannot be held under the occupation. We also said that we want international observers and complete international supervision to hold the elections freely and in a democratic way. Some brothers also proposed the improvement of the economic situation, the release of detainees, the reopening of universities and schools, facilities on the bridges, and allowing money to enter.

[Shahid] Thank you Mr Kan'an. [end recording]

Abu Rahmah on Meeting

TA1705045989 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in English 0400 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met yesterday with a group of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Most of them ruled out the Israeli peace initiative, although some did not reject it outright. Rabin held a similar meeting with Palestinians from Judea and Samaria on Monday. Shlomo Berger reports:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Defense Minister Rabin explained the Israeli peace initiative to the Gazans, and called on them not to miss a golden opportunity. He said the Palestinian people are famous for missing such opportunities, as for example, it took them 41 years to accept the UN resolution for the partition of Palestine. Thirteen Palestinians attended the meeting, supporters of both the PLO and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Among those present were attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah; Gaza Benevolent Society head Mansur al-Shawwa; chief justice of the Gaza Islamic court, Shaykh Kamal al-Ara; and Prof Mahmud al-Zuhar of the Islamic University. I asked Abu Rahmah what the Palestinians told Rabin.

[Abu Rahmah] The Palestinians told Mr Rabin that they disagree to all the plan because it says no to the Palestinian state, no to the PLO, and there is no need for elections since people do acknowledge that the PLO is their legitimate representative.

[Berger] According to Defense Ministry sources, a few of the Palestinians did not reject the Israeli plan outright. abuRahmah says he does not see any immediate end to the deadlock between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Abu Rahmah] I think there will be a period of stalemate in the future, with the Palestinians having their initiative, the Israelis having their initiative, and there will be no movement. So, the good offices of a third party are required to get them nearer to each other.

[Berger] Abu Rahmah says the mediator would have to be either the United States or the United Nations. [end recording]

Minister Decries WHO Decision on Territories
TA1605171289 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The WHO conference has denounced Israel for the condition of the health system in the territories. Sixty-seven countries supported the move and 32 abstained. Israel and the United States voted against it. The decision says that Israel must cooperate with WHO and with the Palestinians in order to improve the health services in the territories.

In response, Health Minister Ya'akov Tzur said that WHO is being fed one-sided reports regarding the situation in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

U.S. Opposition to PLO in WHO 'Regrettable'
TA1605165489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
15 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. vs. WHO: Another Stupid Move"]

[Text] The U.S. campaign against PLO efforts to gain full membership in specialized United Nations agencies for Palestine is highly regrettable. It is reminiscent of the Reagan-Shultz era when the U.S. led a vicious campaign against PLO offices in Washington and New York for no other reason other than a show of muscle.

What is odd about this campaign is that it comes at a time when the U.S. is trying hard to build bridges of confidence between it and the Palestinian people to allow it to play a constructive role as peace broker in this complex Middle East conflict. Every time the U.S. comes out with such a stupid, senseless campaign against the Palestinian people's legitimate drive and God-given right to be recognized as a people, it sets back its own efforts for a settlement.

When the PLO sought membership in the World Health Organization it was doing so not for political reasons, but rather to become an active and effective member of this important organization and others as well. Everyone knows that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and outside suffer from dismal health conditions and require all the international help they can get. Therefore, it was natural for the PLO to request that Palestine be granted membership status so that it can contribute to improving the Palestinians' health situation. No one else seemed too concerned about the level of health for the occupied Palestinians. A visit to hospitals in the occupied areas will give any person seeking the truth an exact picture of the health situation here.

Unfortunately, the United States, in another show of bad planning, chose instead to turn the Palestinian organizations' drive for humanitarian aid into a political issue. It chose to use blackmail and coercion against the UN bodies to get things its way, and this is very regrettable. The successive U.S. Administrations are unable to

understand that Palestinians want to be recognized as a people on this globe and to contribute with whatever resources they have—and they are rich—to making this world better.

The U.S. should also understand that it cannot play the role of policeman of the world just because of its monetary strength. The \$70 million the U.S. contributes to WHO can be easily replaced by one or two of the oil-rich Arab countries. WHO's operations, or those of any other organization for that matter, do not rely solely on U.S. contributions. If the U.S. is going to use its so-called humanitarian aid to developing countries in order to maintain colonial-style hegemony over them, then the world is better off without this money.

The whole affair with WHO is nonsensical. The U.S. should concentrate its efforts on gaining Palestinian confidence, not losing it, if it really wants to become a credible party in the peace process. It wants Palestinians to believe in it, the U.S. needs to make them feel that it is not out there seeking to destroy them as a nation. It is beyond anyone's imagination how a country as powerful as the U.S. can still be so stupid.

PLO Financing of 'Uprising' Outlined
TA1405103189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 14 May 89 p 26

[Report by Dani Sade]

[Text] The monthly salary of a person wounded in incidents of the intifadah [uprising] ranges between 50 to 80 Jordanian dinars (\$100-\$160). The family of someone killed gets a one-time payment of 2,000 dinars (some \$4,000). The widow of an intifadah victim receives a monthly stipend of some 80 dinars. Each intifadah detainee who serves more than a 2-month term is paid 80 dinars for each month he is held in detention. People whose homes are demolished are being promised a sum of money sufficient to rebuild it.

All of this is financed by the PLO. The same organization also pays the Unified National Command of the Uprising's special expenses, which grease the wheels of the intifadah, such as buying the material used for making flags, providing payments to clubs and organizations, paying salaries to activists, and giving aid to needy families. A rough calculation puts the monthly expenses of the intifadah at several hundred thousand dollars. So, it appears that the territories are not short of money.

Where there is money, corruption soon follows. About a year ago, the members of the Unified National Command of the Uprising complained that the sums of money reaching it do not correspond to the sums being sent to the territories. Suspicions were raised that the money was being stolen on its way from PLO headquarters to the territories. The PLO decided to deal with the

issue immediately: A supervisory committee was set up in Amman, headed by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], a PLO leader and close aide to 'Arafat.

The committee was made responsible for transferring funds to the territories, for conducting precise audits, and for receiving detailed reports on the use made of the money. The committee was established in Amman because of the need to maintain daily contact with the territories.

The PLO has discovered that communication with the territories is unreliable. Curfews, traffic limitations, and thorough searches conducted on the bridges made work very hard.

The indictments recently filed against some activists of the Unified National Command of the Uprising provide an insight, though only partial, into how the funds are transferred and distributed in the territories. Seven indictments were filed against people considered to be members of the Unified Command.

The trial of Sam'an Khuri of East Jerusalem, an AFP reporter who was detained in March 1989, will open in the Lod Military Court next week. The indictment against him mentions his activity as a representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and as a treasurer for the Unified Command. Among other things, it claims that Khuri has distributed some \$1.5 million in cash to the following organizations: \$500,000 for Fatah, \$380,000 for the DFLP, \$600,000 for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and \$20,000 for the Palestine Communist Party.

The indictment filed against Dr Sari Nusaybah of East Jerusalem states that besides acting as a political adviser, he also served as Fatah treasurer in the Jerusalem area. Since December 1988, he has distributed some \$600,000 among Fatah activists in the Jerusalem and Ramallah areas to finance intifadah activities. The transactions were held in Nusaybah's offices on Salah al-Din Street in Jerusalem. The money was given out in small plastic bags.

The indictments mention some \$2.1 million circulating in the territories. Defense elements estimate the sum transferred to the Gaza Strip and the Hebron and Samaria areas to be even higher.

The Jordan bridges, as well as other entrances to Israel, are almost totally sealed to smuggled money. International organizations, such as the UN Relief and Works Agency, have been warned not to serve as a channel for transferring funds. The PLO, however, has learned other methods. Intifadah activists have learned that there is no need to smuggle money into Israel. A checkbook is enough; that and a small fee is all one needs to get the desired sum from money changers in the territories and in Israel.

Foreign Ministry's Merhav Meets PRC UN Envoy
TA1405090089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 May 89 p 2

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] New York—Foreign Ministry Director-General Re'uven Merhav and the Chinese ambassador to the UN agreed at a meeting Friday that Israeli-Chinese relations should be based on the principle of reciprocity.

According to Israeli sources, Chinese Ambassador Li Luye expressed satisfaction with the development of Chinese-Israeli relations so far, and said that relations between the two countries' UN missions were improving. The Israeli sources said Li Luye and Merhav had agreed that reciprocity was essential and that contacts between the two countries should be expanded on a reciprocal basis. This appeared to indicate that the Chinese accepted that consulates or embassies—when established—would have to open in both countries.

Merhav also met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, American UN Ambassador Thomas Pickering, and the director of the UN Development Programme, Morris Draper, with whom he discussed international development programmes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Merhav was said to have expressed Israel's interest in the expansion of such programmes.

Egypt Pays Funds to Ra's al-Burqa' Victims
TA1605114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Egypt has fully paid the compensation to the families of the Ra's al-Burqa' victims. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Muhammad Zaghlul, consul at the Egyptian Embassy, has handed the balance of the compensation to Foreign Ministry representatives in Jerusalem. The meeting was also attended by Prof Yitzhaq Zamir, who had assisted the families with legal technicalities.

Our correspondent notes that another part of the compensation which the United States is supposed to pay the victims' families is still outstanding.

3 Druze Detained at Golan 'Gathering'
TA1505155589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] Disturbances again took place on the Golan Heights today. Three Druze residents were detained for interrogation during an illegal gathering near the Syrian border. In the Western Galilee, the detention of dozens of Arab residents suspected of rioting for nationalistic reasons was extended. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, has the details:

Some 100 Druze residents, most of whom live in the Galilee, this afternoon arrived at the border fence between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights. Using loudspeakers, they began talking to the Druze on the other side of the border. The area is declared a closed military zone, and policemen therefore asked the Druze residents to leave. Most of them left, but several others refused, while swearing at the policemen. Three of them were detained.

It is the 4th day in a row that hundreds of Syrian citizens, most of whom are Druze, have arrived at the Syrian side of the border facing Majdal Shams and have encouraged the Golan residents to disturb the order. [passage omitted]

Shomron: 'Anger' Must Not Force Reckless Action
TA1605135389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] examines all suggestions of military action to overcome the uprising, but feelings of anger and pain should not be allowed to lead us to act recklessly. One squad of murderers must not be permitted to drive the entire country out of its senses.

During a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Lieutenant General Shomron said that the Arab residents in the territories should not be brought to a position in which they feel they have nothing to lose by a decision forbidding them to work in Israel. Such a step would drive the Palestinians to a much harsher reaction.

The chief of staff complained, however, about Jewish employers who do not report workers from the Gaza Strip who have no permit to stay in Israel. [passage omitted]

PLO Protecting Grocers Driving to Gaza
TA1505153289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
15 May 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Uri Binder]

[Excerpts] "PLO men protect us with firearms when we go to the refugee camps in Gaza. They have orders from the PLO not to harm Jewish grocers, and that is why they protect us with rifles and we are immune even in places such as Jabalyah, Al-Mughazi, and the markets in Dayr al-Balah," three Israeli Jewish greengrocers who drive to Gaza several times a week told MA'ARIV yesterday. They play by the terrorists' rules because, according to them, they have no other way of making a living in their business. As the uprising rages, the Israelis went on to say, they are not afraid of driving into Gaza since the organizers of the uprising see to their safety.

Commenting on the remarks of the greengrocers, a senior military source said yesterday: "This story is totally unfounded and cannot be true. It is inconceivable that such a phenomenon would go on in the area without us knowing about it. We see these businessmen when they drive in and out of the Gaza Strip, and recently we have rerouted them to one single access road. Such a thing could not be concealed from us."

The three men, all of them in their thirties, added: "On days when serious incidents take place in the Gaza Strip, we check whether we should go in. What type of weapons do you want for your protection, we are asked, Kalashnikovs or M-16's? We see that our escorts are in control of the situation and walk around armed with rifles. That way we have a sense of security, and we are free to deal only with business. We have sat with some of them, but we promised not to reveal their identity. We heard them voice many second thoughts, but they are having a ball and will not stop of their own initiative."

The greengrocers are making good and easy money in Gaza. The method is simple: Arab farmers in Gaza sell the Jewish businessmen a crate of cucumbers for only 1 shekel, or 5 agorot to the kilo!

"One day the Arab with whom I do business did not have any merchandise for me. I tried another guy and was told that my bodyguard is responsible for that district only." [passage omitted]

A senior police source said last night that farmers in Gaza are interested in allowing Israeli greengrocers to return to the Green Line unscathed. That is why they provide escorts to protect the Jewish businessmen and see that they are not harmed. To the question as to whether these escorts carry firearms, an official source who asked not to be identified replied: "We do not know about such cases."

Update on Casualty Toll in Territories
TA1705070889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE
in Hebrew 17 May 89 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 15 May, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 369 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. This number includes only those killed by IDF soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of fatalities totals 488.

In contrast, Palestinian sources report 605 fatalities according to the following breakdown:

- 419 by IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
- 76 by asphyxiation.
- 46 by beatings and electrocution.
- 64 by other causes.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Cars Stoned, Passengers Fire

TA1605172789 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] This afternoon Israeli vehicles were stoned near Mezudat Kfir north of Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent reports that in reaction an Israeli truck stopped and two of its passengers fired shots toward the nearby Terra Santa Church. Nobody was injured, but damage was caused to the church's windows and to several car windows. The two persons who fired the shots were detained, and the police opened an investigation.

Shots Fired at Egged Bus

TA1605184789 Jerusalem Television Service
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Shots were fired at an Egged bus near the settlement of Homesh, near the village of Jaba' in north Samaria. This is reported by our settlement affairs correspondent Beni Liss. The incident took place several minutes ago. Bullets were found in the area, but there were no casualties.

Settlers Stoned in Hebron

TA1605192789 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Hebron there were several serious incidents in which Israeli vehicles were pelted with stones this evening. Two private cars ran into a roadblock and a barrage of stones. The passengers got out of one of the cars and fired shots in the air. One of the passengers was hit in the head by a stone. When he fell, he accidentally shot another passenger in the leg. Army forces were alerted to the scene and angry Qiryat Arba' residents congregated on the main road.

Nabulus Youth Killed

TA1605200389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Yasin Abu al-Si'r, a 21-year-old Nabulus youth, was killed this evening. The youth was killed during a violent confrontation with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Prisoner Dies in Megiddo Jail

TA1605201989 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] The prisoner Muhammad Asad Fuqa', 50, died in the Megiddo Prison today. Army sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the prisoner was on a hunger strike and that he died from dehydration. The circumstances of his death are being examined. The man was imprisoned 8 months after being convicted of security violations. [passage omitted]

Yasir Muhammad Dir'eli, 15, was shot and killed in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip this evening. Army sources told our correspondent that the youth was a main instigator in a stone-throwing incident against soldiers. Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldiers rushed the youth to a hospital in Gaza, where he died. Later his body was snatched by youths. The curfew in the Gaza Strip remains in force.

More on 16 May Incidents

TA1705140489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
17 May 89 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, Fayiz 'Abbas, Oron Me'iri, Buqi Na'e, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Arab sources reported yesterday that a 14-year-old boy was shot in the chest Monday night in the Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank. He was hospitalized in serious condition at the local hospital. In the same camp yesterday morning, a 22-year-old man was wounded by a rubber bullet fired at close range. Arab sources said that a 23-year-old woman was wounded in clashes with settlers in Sabastiyah and was hospitalized in Al-Ittihad Hospital. A 19-year-old youngster wounded in Janin was brought to the same hospital yesterday. Fifteen-year-old Nadir 'Umar was wounded in Hebron. According to Arab sources, he was shot by a settler who had been pelted with stones. Official military sources noted, however, that the matter was being checked, and the boy seems to have been injured in a family scuffle.

Five people were wounded yesterday in Gaza. Twenty-year-old Muhammad Yusuf 'Abdallah from the Shaykh al-Radwan neighborhood was wounded in the back and hospitalized in Al-Shifa' Hospital. According to Arab sources, he was picked up by border policemen when he violated the curfew, and 30 minutes later he was brought to Al-Shifa' Hospital. Two brothers, Ahmad (19) and 'Adnan (15) Zakut, were wounded in another incident in the neighborhood. One was wounded in the head and the other in the shoulder. A 45-year-old man from the Tufah neighborhood was wounded by a rubber bullet and hospitalized at Al-Shifa' Hospital.

A 28-year-old man from the Sabra neighborhood was wounded by soldiers' gunfire when he violated the curfew.

The Israeli army has recently set up roadblocks at the entrance to Bayta and 'Anabta in the West Bank. In Bayta, soldiers bar entry to nonresidents of the village and do not allow the bringing in of foodstuffs. In 'Anabta, soldiers bar entry to non-residents. Inhabitants of Kafr Rumman who must go through 'Anabta in order to get to their village are barred entry as well. [passage omitted]

Janin Man Killed

TA1705114089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1130 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The hospital in Janin has reported the death of a local Arab, apparently by gunfire. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has no information about shooting incidents in the Janin area today. The IDF and Israeli Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

2 Reservists Attacked

TA1705170789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Two reservists, who were attacked with stones in the Janin District village of 'Arrabah, were obliged to abandon their car and to flee to a nearby military base.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the two had entered the village by mistake. Dozens of youths blocked their path and pelted them with stones. As said, the two escaped to an army base and asked for help. When army units arrived in the village, they found the car torched.

Our correspondent notes that a resident of 'Arrabah, who had fired at Yizre'el Valley policemen and was shot by them several days ago, died yesterday.

Gaza 'Terror Squad' Uncovered

TA1705143889 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
17 May 89 p 6

[Report by Mikhel Qedem]

[Text] The security forces have recently uncovered a terror squad whose six members belonged to the Fatah popular committees and committed a series of terror acts. Indictments against the six were filed at the Gaza Military Court yesterday.

Heading the squad was Nabil Hamid Na'im (22). A central member of the squad was Wadi' Mu'ayyani 'Ali 'Awwadi (28), who received instructions from the Fatah headquarters. The six are residents of the village of Bayt Hanun in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

The indictments claim that on 22 February 1989 the six erected a roadblock near the Erez roadblock and, with masked faces and equipped with axes and fuel cans, waited there for the arrival of Israeli cars. An Israeli truck taking Gaza laborers to work in Ashqelon was stopped at the roadblock, its windows were smashed, and the driver and the laborers were forced to leave the truck which was later torched.

The indictment also details two other incidents in which the squad members blocked roads and attacked cars of local residents who disobeyed a general strike order issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

Sentences Passed on Youths

TA1705144389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Jerusalem District court today sentenced a 16-year-old East Jerusalem youth to 4 years in prison for throwing a Molotov cocktail at a house in the Old City about 6 months ago. The youth said he tried to set the house on fire because its owner had not closed his shop despite the instruction of the uprising leadership.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the court also passed sentences ranging from 15 to 32 months on five other youths convicted of throwing stones and bottles at policemen.

Today two Qalqilyah youths were sentenced to prison sentences in Tel Aviv District court. One of them was sentenced to 8 years and the other to 6 years. They were convicted of stealing and burning three cars belonging to Kefar Sava inhabitants against a nationalistic background.

No Damage as Charge Explodes in West Jerusalem

TA1605113089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] A small charge exploded in Liberty Bell Garden in Jerusalem about 1 hour ago. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that there were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Oman's Sultan Qabus Arrives for 3-Day Visit
JN1605123089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman arrived in Amman at noon today on a 3-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. The honored guest was accorded an official reception at the airport. His Majesty King Husayn led those who received his majesty. Receiving him also were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his excellency the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his majesty's special adviser, his highness the chief chamberlain, the ministers, his majesty the king's special secretary, senior civilian and military officials, the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions, and the Omani ambassador in Amman and the Embassy staff.

The Omani and Jordanian national anthems were played while the artillery fired a 21-gun salute in honor of Jordan's great guest. Then the two great leaders inspected the guard of honor, which represented the various formations of the Armed Forces.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus' official delegation includes Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sayf ibn Hamad ibn Sa'ud, head of the Sultanate Court; Major General 'Ali ibn Majid al-Ma'mari, head of the palace office; Muhammad ibn Ahmad Al-Bu Sa'id, the sultan's adviser for religious and historical affairs; Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri, minister of education and youth affairs; 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas, minister of information affairs; and Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus will be escorted during the visit by an honor mission headed by 'Amir Khammash, his majesty the king's special adviser.

Meets With King Husayn
JN1605183389 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman have held talks in the presence of the two countries' delegations. In these talks, His Majesty King Husayn and his esteemed guest, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, exchanged views on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues.

Their majesties voiced satisfaction over the current fraternal relations between Jordan and Oman and expressed their eagerness to bolster and develop them in the interests of the two countries.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus expressed Oman's support and backing for Jordan. He also voiced his appreciation of Jordan's positive role in Arab efforts and in serving the Arab nation.

The two Arab leaders discussed various Arab and international issues and affirmed their desire for the success of the coming Arab summit and eagerness to tackle all Arab issues, foremost among which is to support the Palestine cause until the Palestinian people regain their rights of freedom and independence. They stressed the need to agree on an Arab position that will enable Lebanon to realize national accord and end its bloody ordeal. The two leaders agreed on the need to intensify efforts to make the Iraq-Iran peace endeavors succeed to turn the current cease-fire into a permanent peace between the two countries.

The two Arab leaders reviewed efforts to bolster and strengthen joint Arab action and voiced their confidence in the achievement of strong cooperation among the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union in a manner that will create better opportunities for Arab interests and cooperation. The two leaders reviewed the international situation and expressed their satisfaction over the effect of international detente on regional issues and stressed the need to intensify efforts to make this detente reflect positively on Arab issues.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, the special adviser to his majesty the king, the chief chamberlain, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the higher education minister, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the information minister, the chief of staff, the Jordanian ambassador in Muscat, and the secretary general of the Royal Court.

For Oman, the talks were attended by the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, the chief of the Sultan's Court, the chief of the Palace Office, the adviser to his majesty the sultan for religious and historical affairs, the education and youth affairs minister, the information minister, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

King Husayn Discusses Summit, Mideast Issues
JN1705123889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn described relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman as ideal and an example of what relations between brothers should be like.

In an interview with the Omani media delegation accompanying His Majesty Sultan Qabus, his majesty said that his majesty the sultan is a brother and a friend he holds in high esteem and for whom he has feelings of pure love, respect, and faithfulness. What I feel for him is what all the sons of Jordan feel for fraternal Oman in the way of love and pride regarding the ideal relations between us.

His majesty added that his talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus were motivated by a sense of duty to discuss everything that could serve the causes of the Arab nation in light of the current policies to resolve disputes threatening regional and international peace.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed out the positive moves in the Arab arena manifested by the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union. He said: There is the coming Arab summit, and it is necessary to work toward returning matters to their normal state.

He discussed Egypt's return to its position, first among the ranks of Arab leaders, and then in the Arab League, to continue performing its great role in terms of Arab policy and for the good of the Arabs and their future. He added that there are issues which will definitely be discussed and dealt with. He clarified that the summit is its own master. Therefore, it must provide the opportunity for proposing all the important issues to be handled in the appropriate way.

His majesty said: One of the most important points is that there be a unified Arab position supporting the PLO based on its position in the recent past which took shape at the Palestine National Council in Algiers, the moves which accompanied it internationally, and the positive developments which followed. He added that the brothers and kinfolk chose directly to shoulder their responsibilities. We must support them. We, here in Jordan, will support them as we always have, with all our resources and capabilities, to return justice to its rightful owners on national Palestinian soil.

His Majesty King Husayn referred to the Lebanese problem and called for finding a solution in a brotherly and frank atmosphere and to put public interest above other considerations to serve Lebanon, its neighbor Syria, and the Arab nation.

He also discussed the current status of the Arab League and what it should aspire to. He pointed to the necessity of reviewing it so that it would be strong, capable of coordinating among the major Arab groupings, and performing its role and duty effectively and influentially.

His majesty expressed his hope that the united Arab policy would contribute toward the rapid achievement of a quick and real and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. The situation should not continue as it is currently, with a cease-fire only, because continuation of this situation is in the interest of neither side.

His Majesty King Husayn said these are all issues to which we must find solutions in the near future. He added that His Majesty Sultan Qabus' brotherly visit enabled us to talk to him, hear his opinions, and discuss things with him as brothers and comrades.

Regarding his efforts to achieve Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement, his majesty said: Our efforts for reconciliation between our Arab brothers continue. I will do all I can, and I am being helped by all my brothers in the great homeland. These efforts will succeed, God willing. I am confident about the inevitability of their future success.

Asked if the Casablanca summit will be a step toward Arab reconciliation, his majesty said every Arab meeting at the summit level benefits this nation and that meetings at the highest level are the best means for solving problems, adding that previous meetings have confirmed that. Estrangement is the cause of the nation's suffering, he added.

On reports that a small summit might be held in Cairo before the emergency Arab summit, his majesty said: We had planned to hold a meeting of the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council member states in Cairo, but that meeting was postponed following the death of the Iraqi defense minister. Now that matters have developed toward convening the Arab summit, we will meet privately during the summit in Morocco. We will then meet as scheduled in Cairo at the beginning of next month to adopt decisions on the basis of the joint studies which we have carried out during the period since the declaration of the Arab Cooperation Council. The decisions will include the appointment of the Arab Cooperation Council's secretary general.

Asked if his recent visit to the United States was successful and whether he could count on U.S. President Bush's administration in backing the peace efforts in the Middle East—contrary to previous administrations—His Majesty King Husayn said: I believe I can answer yes to this question. President Bush and his administration are qualified for an effective and influential role. The international situation has also changed a great deal with regard to people's understanding of our issues and the Palestinian people's cause. The Palestinian position has taken shape. On the other hand, a direct U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has begun. We have encouraged this dialogue. At the same time, matters have begun to become clear to the world with the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising] and its revolution against the occupation, injustice, and the oppression which Israel has practiced for more than 20 years. This is in addition to the international relations which are proceeding toward removing all problems that threaten peace in the region and the world.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed to the detente and cooperation between the USSR and the United States and among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Foreign Minister Reaffirms Position on Egypt
JN1605175789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1720 GMT 16 May 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reaffirmed his country's position toward Egypt's participation in the Arab summit.

He recalled what King Husayn said 2 months ago to the effect that Jordan and the Arab Cooperation Council states will not attend any summit unless Egypt's is invited.

In a statement to our station, Al-Qasim said Egypt's return to the Arab League does not require a unanimous decision since the suspension of its membership in 1979 was not approved unanimously because it was opposed by four states—Sudan, Oman, Somalia, and Djibouti.

Concluding, Al-Qasim said he hoped that Egypt's membership would be restored unanimously.

King Husayn Sends Condolences on Mufti's Death

JN1605175289 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Cable of condolences sent by His Majesty King Husayn to Lebanese Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss on the death of the late Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Lebanon's mufti; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, may God protect you.

With great sadness and deep pain, we have learned of the grievous news of the death of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Lebanon's mufti, in an incident conceived by sinful hands that have no fear of God on matters pertaining to Lebanon or its sincere people.

While condemning this treacherous incident, we share with you the feelings of deep pain on the death of the virtuous scholar and the Islamic spiritual leader, and entreat God to enable fragmented fraternal Lebanon to overcome its ordeal; to rebuild its national unity; to end its continuous bloodshed; to envelop the deceased, the devoted son of Lebanon, with His abundant mercy; and to inspire you, along with his relatives and the fraternal Lebanese people, with patience and comfort. I request that you convey my heartfelt condolences and consolations to the relatives, friends, and beloved ones of the deceased. From God we come and to Him we return. [Koranic verse]

13 Reporters Allowed To Resume Activities

JN1605151789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab
World 0930 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir has decided to allow a number of Jordanian news correspondents to resume their journalistic activities after they had been banned from doing so during the tenure of his predecessor, Zayd al-Rifa'i, for various political reasons.

The announcement came after a meeting between the Jordanian prime minister and five of the correspondents. The decision affects 13 male and female correspondents who used to work for Jordanian and foreign news organizations.

Editorial Examines 'Real' Aims of Shamir Plan

JN1705083289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
17 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir's Ploy"]

[Text] While the election idea projected for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency at the superpower level and receiving conditional acceptance from the Palestinian side, it must be immediately distinguished from the Israeli election scheme which is nothing more than a rehash of the Camp David Accords. It is worth noting that while the U.S. is expressing guarded support to the election idea as such, it has not fully subscribed to the Shamir election formula. Likewise the Soviet Union has completely disassociated itself from the Israeli election proposal, describing it as dangerously flawed, woefully deficient and wantonly lacking in scope and direction. Meanwhile, the PLO has officially rejected the Shamir election plan and described it as ridiculous. And concurrently with its categorical rejection of the Shamir election ideas, the PLO maintained its conditional acceptance of the principle of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip including, occupied Jerusalem, provided they are carried out under U.N. supervision and have the potential of granting the Palestinian people under occupation the full and complete opportunity to exercise unqualified self-determination including the opportunity to create their own separate state in the occupied territories if they so wish.

One would presume that all the forces genuinely working on the side of peace in the Middle East, including the superpowers, know only too well that for any elections to be meaningful in the West Bank and Gaza Strip they must be free and under neutral supervision. Equally valid is the proposition that the PLO cannot be excluded from the election process as Shamir appears to be aiming for. The PLO has been internationally accepted, as has long been the case in the Arab World, as the representative of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with full authority and mandate to make lasting commitments on their behalf. To attempt at this late hour to jump over the PLO makes one wonder about the real intents and purposes of the Shamir Plan. And when the exclusion of the PLO is considered in conjunction with the Israeli ipso facto rejection of the Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and with the added Israeli condition that the projected election be conducted only when calm is restored to the occupied territories, one can be sure that the Shamir's model for elections is only a ploy to gain time and pull the rug from under the Palestinian intifadah. Accordingly, unless international pressure especially superpower pressure can be applied on Israel in order to conduct fair and free elections in the territories in question with a view to give the Palestinians under occupation a real opportunity to exercise self-determination in all its dimensions, then there is no redeeming value in the election scheme. If such persuasion, when applied on Israel, fails to deliver the conditions that are fair and balanced for the election idea, then the international community, especially Washington and Moscow, are duty bound to bring back the international conference idea from the back burner.

Reaction to, Aftermath of Mufti Khalid's Death

Amal Denounces Crime

NC1605145589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Following today's abominable crime, the executive body of the Amal Movement held a special meeting during which it studied the background of this great crime and its effects, particularly at this difficult stage.

The executive body of the Amal Movement denounced the crime which has been committed against a man known for his responsible patriotic and Islamic stands that were best represented in the famous 'Id al-Fitr sermon. During this sermon, His Eminence Mufti Khalid announced important national constants which constitute a basis for ending the war. Moreover, he always sought to consolidate the unity of the officials responsible.

The executive body of the Amal Movement is keeping its meetings open-ended in order to follow up the situation.

Hizballah Denounces Murder

NC1705065189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Hizballah has denounced the odious assassination of Mufti Hasan Khalid, declaring that the crime aims at subjugating Muslims through the murder of a figure who had taken Islamic positions against injustice and sectarian and racist domination. Hizballah asserted that the perpetrators of this crime are crusaders who are taking part in the alliance between the gangs of the Al-Yarzah army [of Michel 'Awn] and the Zionized forces. The carnage, Hizballah stated, will only lead to closer unity among the Muslims and firmer determination to bring down the Maronite political doctrine and the unjust sectarian system.

Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said: We can hardly find the words of denunciation that suit our anger and horror at the barbaric crime to which his eminence the mufti of the republic has fallen victim. The mufti's active and diverse efforts in the cultural, social, and political arenas have made him a great symbol of Islam.

Iranian Embassy Regrets Death

NC1605172989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut has denounced the assassination of Mufti Hasan Khalid. It said: The news of the martyrdom of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, has caused regret and sorrow for all Muslims in general and the people in Lebanon and Iran in particular.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, while expressing its deep regret and indignation over the loss of this great Islamic figure, denounces the tragic

incident and draws the attention of Muslims in Lebanon to the viciousness of the plots of global arrogance which aim to serve imperialist ambitions. We stress that unity and standing as one are the only way to foil the plots and aim to sow sedition and alienation. We also stress the need for Muslims and the Lebanese people to be patient and to stand fast against the enemies' plots that aim to control their legitimate rights.

Patriarch Sufayr Reacts

NC1605153989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr has stated: We have been greatly pained by the loss of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid. The sisterly Sunni community has lost a wise spiritual leader. Lebanon has lost a great symbol and a daring leader who always aspired for the welfare and dignity of this nation. We have lost a dear and dignified friend to whom we were linked by the closest bonds of friendship and mutual respect.

His sudden loss following the abominable crime which also victimized a number of innocent citizens is an immense national loss at this difficult juncture in Lebanon's history.

We hope that his martyrdom, which has followed the martyrdom of thousands of innocent Lebanese, will redeem a united, free, and independent Lebanon and will herald liberation and peace.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of the great martyr, to the Muslims, and to all the Lebanese of various beliefs. We implore God to reward the great deceased, safeguard Lebanon against further catastrophes, and restore to it security and peace.

'Awn Denounces Crime

NC1605152389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called on the Lebanese people in their various areas and categories to adopt a united national stand, denounce the crime, and express their rejection of the continuing attacks on their national leaders and symbols.

Gen 'Awn said: This ugly crime has proved that the hand of terrorism, oppression, and conspiracy does not hesitate to strike at the religious leaders, the symbols of reason and moderation, and the bulwarks of firm nationalism, who preserve the homeland's equilibrium, safeguard the land and the people's unity, and confront with wisdom and knowledge the plot to partition, dismember, and swallow the homeland.

Gen 'Awn added: It is true that this crime is not the first perpetrated by the foreign hands of terrorism and domination against our spiritual, political, intellectual, and

journalistic leaders, but it is the most painful and dangerous because it was directed against a great spiritual leader who was unanimously considered by all the Lebanese as a strong shield, a firm edifice, and a just and wise protector of firm national detente.

Concluding, Gen 'Awn said: I greatly regret the loss of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid in view of what he used to embody and in view of the breed of great men to whom he belonged, but especially in view of the urgent national need at this particular time for courageous and independent leaders who adopt clear national stands. I hope that our people will have their say and adopt a stand against the occupiers of the land, the oppressors of the will, and the aggressors against all the symbols of whatever remains of national sovereignty.

Ja'ja' Expresses Sorrow

NC1705070789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stated to the AL-DIYAR newspaper that the assassination of the mufti is a national loss despite the different positions and stands taken at times. Lebanon's interest, Dr Ja'ja' noted, has been the common denominator especially because the mufti was known for his moderation, prudence, and adherence to the national Lebanese constants.

Ja'ja' said he was greatly saddened by the assassination of his eminence and voiced deep regret that violence should escalate to the level, where a personality, of the weight, character, and nature of Mufti Khalid is assassinated. He added: This calls for profound regret and deep sorrow over this state of affairs which indicates the extent terrorism has reached.

Lebanese Forces on Crime

NC1605155889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council has denounced the crime against Mufti Khalid. In a statement, it said that the Lebanese Forces condemn this criminal act against a Lebanese spiritual leader who was always able to preserve the ties and bonds among the Lebanese spiritual communities.

The Lebanese Forces reaffirm their stand based on respect for every Lebanese symbol representing a bulwark in the edifice of this homeland.

The Lebanese Forces reassert their denunciation and rejection of these methods, which have nothing to do with any Christian or Islamic ideals and which constitute a violation of human rights and dignity.

Catholic Center on Attack

NC1605144989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Catholic Center for Information has issued a statement denouncing the criminal attack against Mufti Khalid. The center explained that this deed represents the peak of crime in the attacks against religious sanctities and their symbols, particularly because the martyr was known for his moderation, patriotism, honorable national stands, and sacrifices for restoring peace in Lebanon, as well as for bringing views closer together and maintaining the dialogue at these critical times.

PSP Blames 'Conspiracy'

NC1605150389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] The Secretariat General of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has issued the following statement:

At a time when the country is experiencing critical and crucial circumstances and when the nationalists and Muslims are confronting the mad adventure waged by 'Awn under false and imaginary slogans, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, has fallen a martyr to the big conspiracy which has struck Lebanon since 13 April 1975.

At this critical moment, we remember his eminence when he addressed the Muslims in the municipal stadium on one of the religious holidays and defined the principles of the nationalist and Islamic ranks toward the isolationist and sectarian plan of the Phalangist regime.

We also note that this criminal assassination came after the recent statement of the Islamic Grouping, which identified by name the quarter which is responsible for the war of destruction and ruination that has struck West Beirut and the nationalist areas. This statement pointed an accusing finger at Michel 'Awn, the Al-Yarzah cliques, and the Ja'ja' forces.

The assassination of the mufti of the Lebanese Republic today is a continuation of the big conspiracy of emptying the nationalist and Islamic arena of its symbols and leaders. This conspiracy is being implemented by well-known quarters, who were behind the assassination of martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd, martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and His Eminence Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid today.

We in the PSP will miss a prominent national figure. We call on all nationalists and Muslims to realize the dimensions of the grave conspiracy concocted against the homeland which aims at striking at its unity and Arabism. We call on them to unite to foil the wicked and cowardly objectives behind today's assassination.

May God have mercy on His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid and his fellow martyrs, and may God give their relatives patience and consolation.

Peace Efforts Targeted

NC1605155389 Paris AFP in English 1517 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 16 (AFP)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi charged that the assassination of Lebanon's senior Sunni Moslem religious leader in a car-bombing Tuesday was aimed at foiling peace efforts in the country.

Mr. Klibi, currently in the Syrian capital, denounced the bombing that was set off by remote control in West Beirut, killing Shaykh Hasan Khalid and 14 other people and injuring 75.

"This criminal operation, which caused the deaths of innocent people, is contrary to painful and conscientious efforts to help Lebanon put an end to destruction," he said.

"We denounce this attack, which was aimed not only at Shaykh Khalid but also against those who are working to restore peace and security to Lebanon."

Mr. Klibi urged "all Lebanese parties to remain calm, despite the pain felt at the death of this great man and all the other victims."

The Arab League is currently engaged in an effort to consolidate a cease-fire in Lebanon between mainly Christian Lebanese Army troops under General Michel 'Awn and Syrian soldiers and their Lebanese Moslem allies.

In Jordan, the country's grand mufti, Shaykh 'Izz al-Din al-Khatib, condemned the attack in Syrian-controlled West Beirut, which he also said was aimed against "efforts to bring peace to Lebanon."

General Strike Planned

NC1605150489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] Following the crime of the assassination of Mufti Hasan Khalid, members of the Islamic Grouping held a meeting at the Fatwa House. [passage omitted] A statement was issued following the meeting calling for a 3-day general strike to mourn His Eminence Mufti Khalid.

Day of Mourning Declared

NC1605183889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Front on 16 May]

[Text] Mobile terrorism, which has affected the whole of Lebanon for 15 years, distributing its disasters and catastrophes equally among the Lebanese and distorting the reputation of the Lebanese despite the fact that they

are its only victims, did not spare His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, today. This terrorism struck down a senior religious authority, a person who was known for his patriotism and moderation and for his efforts to encourage amity among the Lebanese.

While deploring this treacherous crime, the Lebanese Front calls upon the Lebanese to be alert to the forces of evil which are seeking to fragment the homeland. It conveys its profound condolences to the relatives of the venerable departed, the families of all victims, and all Lebanese. It declares that tomorrow, Wednesday, will be a day of mourning during which all citizens will mark this painful incident and express their wrath against the forces of terrorism which are wreaking destruction and murder in their homeland.

Syrian Involvement Hinted

NC1605175189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Who assassinated Mufti Khalid? Who killed the highest spiritual Sunni reference in Lebanon? Who silenced a big voice which spoke the truth? Who, who, who? A series of questions, with one clear answer: It is the same hand that assassinated Shaykh Subhi al-Salih, Muhammad Shuqayr, and other personalities who refused to appease the occupation and always called for inter-Lebanese detente far from any foreign intervention.

Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid fell today, a martyr of his free Lebanese positions. Mufti Khalid spelled out his position and left to where there is justice, righteousness, and dignity.

We point out that Mufti Khalid recently turned down an invitation to visit Damascus. He also refused to denounce the positions of the government of General Michel 'Awn.

Informed sources have disclosed to Radio Free Lebanon that his eminence was the one who informed Lakhdar Ibrahim, the representative of the Arab League secretary general, that the violation of the cease-fire started from West Beirut.

West Germans Reportedly Abducted South of Sidon

NC1605171189 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, May 16 (AFP)—At least one West German national was abducted Tuesday afternoon south of this port city, the Popular Nasirite Organization (PNO) said here.

Armed men in two cars intercepted a vehicle carrying several members of the West Gemran humanitarian organization ASME-Humanitas and drove off towards an area controlled by the pro-Syrian Shi'ite Amal militia, the PNO said.

On Sunday, another West German member of the organization was released after being held for 10 days in connection with the trial in West Germany of a Lebanese for hijacking and murder. The verdict in the case was expected Wednesday.

'More Than 1' Kidnapped

NC1605173789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English
1730 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] A Nasirite movement source in Sidon confirmed that more than one German national was kidnapped this evening in the southern city of Sidon. Armed elements aboard a car intercepted a car, aboard which was one or more German employees of ASME-Humanitas. They were heading to an area under the control of the pro-Syrian Amal Movement.

3 FRG Citizens Abducted

LD1605180289 Hamburg DPA in German 1735 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—Three foreigners who, according to unconfirmed reports, are Federal citizens Petra Schnitzler (26), Heinrich Struebig (48), and Markus Quint, were kidnapped today in the south Lebanese port city of Sidon, according to information from eye witnesses and Lebanese radio stations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn, in reply to questions this evening, could not confirm the new case of kidnapping at this time.

According to the information, masked armed persons in a blue Mercedes intercepted a column of vehicles from the International Red Cross near the Schieb Hospital in Sidon and dragged the three foreigners into their vehicle. They then fled.

The names of the persons abducted are not known officially. A Lebanese member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that they are Federal German citizens. German sources in Beirut stated that the only Germans remaining in the country are the three workers for the private aid organization ASME-Humanitas. Petra Schnitzler, Heinrich Struebig, and Markus Quint were kidnapped once before, on 4 May. At that time Petra Schnitzler and Struebig were freed after a few hours while Quint was not freed until Whit Sunday [14 May].

4th German Said Kidnapped

LD1605183589 Hamburg DPA in German 1808 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—According to the latest information today, four FRG citizens are said to have been kidnapped in the most recent kidnapping incident in Lebanon, eye-witness reports state in the south Lebanese port of Sidon. A female employee of the German aid organization ASME-Humanitas, Petra Schnitzler, is reported to have been seen in the office of an Islamic

militia group in Sidon 45 minutes after the kidnapping and, according to these reports, has been set free. No confirmation of the kidnapping was available this evening either from the Foreign Ministry in Bonn or the private aid organization ASME-Humanitas in the town of Allendorf.

Further on Abduction

LD1605194389 Hamburg DPA in German 1845 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA)—On the eve of the verdict in the Frankfurt kidnap trial of Lebanese citizen Muhammad Hammadi, four FRG citizens have apparently once again been kidnapped in Lebanon. According to as yet officially unconfirmed eye-witness reports, they are said to include employees of the aid organization ASME-Humanitas again, among them Markus Quint, who was only released on Sunday [14 May]. Eye-witnesses report that ASME-Humanitas employee Petra Schnitzler (26) was released 45 minutes after being kidnapped in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon.

The Lebanese radio station "Voice of the Nation" reported that the foreigners seized in Sidon by armed masked men were three employees of the private German aid organization ASME-Humanitas, Petra Schnitzler (26), Heinrich Struebig (48), and Markus Quint (24). The identity of the fourth hostage is not known.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn and ASME-Humanitas, based in the town of Allendorf (Hesse), were unable to confirm the kidnapping incident this evening.

According to the eye-witness reports, the masked kidnappers stopped their victims' car on the road from Sidon to the ASME office in Zahrani (45 km south of Beirut). Initial reports stated that the kidnappers had intercepted a Red Cross convoy. The kidnappers, who had at their disposal three trucks, forced the three men at gunpoint into the trunk of a vehicle. Petra Schnitzler had to sit in one of the rear seats. She was evidently sighted shortly afterwards in the office of an Islamic militia group in Sidon and has been released. [passage omitted]

Aid Worker Released

NC1605201589 Paris AFP in English 2003 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, May 16 (AFP)—One of three West German aid workers kidnapped in south Lebanon Tuesday afternoon was freed in the evening by a Moslem fundamentalist group in this southern Lebanese port city, a source from the group said.

Petra Schnitzler, a doctor who was abducted on Tuesday along with two co-workers from the West German humanitarian organization ASME-Hkumanitas, was set free by the Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], the source said.

The kidnapping came 48 hours after the release of another co-worker and a day before a jury in West Germany was to sentence a Lebanese Shi'ite on trial for hijacking and murder.

The Moslem group had driven in hot pursuit after one of the captors' two cars and managed to intercept it north-east of Sidon and to free Dr. Schnitzler, who was held in the trunk, they said.

The kidnapers escaped, they added.

The kidnappings came just two days after another West German had been released at the end of 10 days in detention. [passage omitted]

'Source' Names Hostages

NC1705052989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] One of the three FRG nationals who were kidnapped last night in Sidon was released some time later. The kidnapped people are Heinrich, the official in charge of the FRG mission in the south, his wife Petra, and a third FRG national whose name, according to a source from the Islamic Group [Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah], is Thomas. The source said that elements from the Islamic Group liberated Petra from its kidnappers last night.

Libya Invites British MP to Beirut on Hostages
LD1505184389 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1758 GMT 15 May 89

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] Labour MP Mr Ron Brown said tonight he has been invited by the Libyan authorities to visit Beirut to discuss the release of hostages.

Mr Brown, left wing MP for Edinburgh Leith, who is in hospital recovering from surgery, has a record of securing the freedom of people held in the Middle East and elsewhere.

In a letter from Tripoli he made public tonight, Mr Brown was thanked by the Libyan Government for a communication and told that the Libyans would "do anything you recommend to secure the release of individuals held hostage."

The letter expressed opposition to terrorism and went on: "We invite you to visit Beirut to discuss your proposals with our local representative."

Miss Susan Dick, Mr Brown's assistant at the Commons, said: "Mr Brown has often been attacked for his contacts with foreign regimes, but remember he has freed many people world-wide over the years." These include six from Libya, the last being Mr James Abra, a Plessey engineer.

Mr Brown is recovering from surgery in connection with burns he received in an accident 20 years ago. His wife, May, said today it was likely to be three or four weeks before he was in circulation again.

The hostages still believed held in Beirut are Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Mr John McCarthy, a journalist, Mr Brian Keenan, a teacher with dual Irish-British nationality, and possibly Mr Jack Mann, a retired RAF [Royal Air Force] pilot, who disappeared in West Beirut on Friday [12 May].

Paper Cited on French-Arab Plan for Peace
NC1705092789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The LE POINT newspaper has quoted diplomatic sources as saying that [Arab League Secretary General Chedli] Klibi has conveyed to Damascus a 4-point French-Arab plan. The articles of the plan are: Deployment of Arab observers in Lebanon as soon as possible; lifting the blockades, establishment of greater Beirut; and partial withdrawal of the Syrian forces, particularly from Beirut and its outskirts.

Arab League Envoys Return to Beirut 17 May
NC1705124589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Arab League delegation, comprised of Lakh-dar Ibrahim and Ambassador Ahmad al-Jasim, returned to Beirut today to continue talks for the consolidation of the cease-fire and the deployment of the observer team. Once this task is achieved, the political crisis will then be addressed.

Communist Party Cited on 'Awn, Arab Role
NC1605154089 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee has stressed that the six-man Arab committee and the forthcoming Arab summit are facing a hard and decisive challenge in light of Michel 'Awn's rejection of the Arab role.

In a political statement issued at the end of its session, which was called the session of struggler Suha Bisharah, the Central Committee said that 'Awn rejected the Arab decision after realizing its political significance. He tried to interpret it in a way that was compatible with his policy and was then forced to accept it in order to avoid more isolation. He continues in fact to sabotage the declared cease-fire through barbaric bombardment,

tightening of the siege, and feverish attempts to obtain Iraqi weapons and ammunition. At the same time, he consistently refused to link the cease-fire to political dialogue. [passage omitted]

The statement stressed that any pragmatic approach to the Lebanese problem must involve the essence of the crisis. It should not entertain solutions that are of a tribal nature and disregard the real causes of the flare-up in the situation. The statement called for taking all necessary measures to confront the grave consequences of 'Awn's policy, particularly as it is very clear that 'Awn is the main obstacle to any solution.

The political statement noted the great political significance of the divergent views within the eastern area, particularly in Patriarch Sufayr's persistence in calling for a political course that is different from 'Awn's line and practices. This shows that we are at the start of the development and growth of a moderate and responsible trend that is seeking to create an appropriate atmosphere for a constructive dialogue among the Lebanese parties, the statement said.

The statement noted that the recent escalatory U.S. positions having negative effects on the development of divergent political stances in the eastern areas and is aimed at preventing the trend that is opposed to 'Awn's course and his way of handling the struggle from developing into an effective force.

The Central Committee positively assessed the joint Soviet-U.S. statement and said it is an additional factor in the constructive tackling of the crisis. It noted, however, that the United States did not allow any mention in the statement of the question of the Israeli occupation and the need for Israel's withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Khalid Group Claims Attack on Syrians
NC1605183989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] An organization calling itself the Martyr Shaykh Hasan Khalid Forces has declared that it fired a number of 60-mm mortar rounds on a Syrian occupation forces roadblock on the Cola-Sports City road in West Beirut at 2015 today.

A spokesman for the organization said that the rounds fell at a distance of a few meters from the roadblock.

'Awn's Ships Loaded With Arms Shelled
NC1705101389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Warning shells were fired in the direction of the eastern coast area this morning and again at noon today after information was received that ships loaded with arms and ammunition for 'Awn's clique are waiting at sea.

Syrian MiG-17's Overfly Lebanese Areas
NC1705104589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1033 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Since 1979, no Syrian planes have flown in the Lebanese skies. Today, however, Syrian MiG-17's overflew Suq al-Gharb, 'Aramun, and Iqlim al-Kharrub. The planes were not confronted with anti-aircraft fire.

Shells Fall on Kasrawan, Jubayl Coasts
NC1705100989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts were the target of several shells at approximately 1030 today. The Jubayl coast has been subjected to volleys of shells since dawn today.

Exchanges of Artillery Fire Reported in South
NC1705093589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army] caused the security situation on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-Ayn al-Mir front to flare up this morning. Artillery duels are now taking place between the positions of Lahd and those of the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces of the Popular Liberation Army. The bombardment extended beyond the combat lines, with shells falling on villages in East Sidon. The sound of guns could be heard in the area until noon.

Al-Asad Sends Condolences on Mufti's Death
JN1605164989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has expressed his heartfelt condolences on the death of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon. The president sent a cable of condolences to Sa'd al-Din Khalid, condoling him and the bereaved family on the death of his father, Shaykh Hasan Khalid. The following is the text of the cable:

We were deeply grieved by news of the ugly criminal action, which took the life of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, who devoted his life to serving his religion, nation, and homeland.

We condemn this detestable crime against a leader who always expressed sound and enlightened views, who deeply believed in Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and who struggled to achieve a Lebanese national accord on the basis of equality among all the citizens in terms of rights and duties.

The perpetrators of this ugly crime acted against the national will in assassinating Shaykh Hasan Khalid; they wanted to assassinate an honest effort to achieve a solution based on Lebanese national accord.

I send my heartfelt condolences to you and to the members of the family who were bereaved by the death of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, beseeching Almighty God to grant him paradise and to inspire you with patience and solace.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad

Death of Shaykh Khalid Viewed
JN1705072689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 17 May 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH devoted its editorial to the martyr of the homeland and Arabism, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, it says: We cannot see any reason for the assassination of Shaykh Khalid, and before him Prime Minister Karami, other than to foment further seditions in Lebanon and drown the nation in a pool of blood in service of the Zionist scheme and enemy objectives which lay in wait for Lebanon and the Arabs. The martyr mufti was an advocate of dialogue and coexistence among the sons of the one homeland. He was a symbol of the homeland's unity. He had faith in the homeland's Arabism just as he had faith in his religion and nation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Are faith in Lebanon's unity and Arabism and the call for accord and amity among the sons of the one homeland a crime whose advocate should be punished by death?

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: Treachery, murder, and perpetrating crimes against nationalist figures will not affect the Lebanese people and their sincere sons, and will not undermine the march of struggle that has been continuing since 1975. Victory is for the sincere people, and death is for the agents and traitors. However, eternal life is for the homeland's martyrs. The late Shaykh Hasan Khalid is a new name to be added to the list of eternal martyrs of the homeland and Arabism.

Al-Asad Receives Arab League Secretary General
JN1605195489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at 1750 today. Their talks dealt with developments in Arab scene affairs and the Lebanese situation.

Khaddam Cited on Return of Egypt to Arab League
NC1505150389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has declared that Syria welcomes the return of Egypt to the Arab League.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AW-SAT, Khaddam said that Egypt has repeatedly confirmed its commitment to the Arab issues and that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is not directly responsible for the peace treaty with Israel.

AL-THAWRAH on Egypt
JN1705080489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 17 May 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on Syrian-Egyptian relations: Damascus, which considered Cairo its militant partner through good and bad times, victories and setbacks, was pained to see the Zionist axes destroying the points of strength in Egypt and to see that comrade-in-arms depart the battle and turn its back on a treacherous enemy that is armed with the most sophisticated means of killing and destruction.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria has viewed this departure as a pan-Arab loss that cannot be compensated and an imperialist conspiracy to force the Arabs to capitulate. Actually, since the deterioration of Syrian-Egyptian relations, catastrophes have befallen the Arab nation. Consequently, its fragmentation increased, the unity of its stance weakened, its influence in the international arena decreased, and the imperialist-Zionist ambitions in the Arab homeland have become very active. Amid this dark and disturbed atmosphere, Syria was moving to confront the expansionist Zionist ambitions, to deter dangers posed to the Arab nation, and to strengthen the Arabs'

will and resolution. Under the most difficult circumstances, Damascus has waged struggle for the sake of allowing Egypt to restore its strength, health, and role, and for the sake of removing all obstacles to achieving this objective. Syria was sincere in its stand because it wanted to help its historic partner and preserve militant cohesion with it, which has always been the only guarantee for the freedom and independence of the Arab decisionmaking.

Palestinian Communists' Statement on Elections
JN1605152389 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Damascus, 16 May (SANA)—The Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party [RPCP] today strongly condemned the diplomatic moves and oppressive campaigns by the Zionist occupiers to market Yitzhaq Shamir's dangerous election project in the occupied territories.

The RPCP warned in a statement distributed here today against the dangers of the wide-scale campaign carried out by the Zionist occupiers along with the American imperialism and all its supporters to impose Shamir's project, which aims to stop the intifadah [uprising] and abort it in preparation for liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The statement clarified that the Zionist diplomatic campaign to promote this project was accompanied by a bloody campaign of oppression, whose victims in the past few days have numbered hundreds of injured in addition to many martyrs among the Palestinian Arab citizens.

In conclusion, the RPCP called on the national, Palestinian, and Arab forces and the Palestinian Arab citizens in the occupied territories to express their full rejection of the Zionist project and affirm their support for the wonderful Palestinian intifadah, which the occupied Arab territories are witnessing.

Khaddam Receives UN 'Fact-Finding' Delegation
JN1405132789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received this morning a UN press fact-finding delegation on the occupied Arab territories

The vice president informed the delegation of Syria's principled policy, which is based on the UN Charter and resolutions and peoples' rights to sovereignty and self-determination.

The vice president described the situation in the Middle East and the permanent danger to peace represented by Israel's expansionist policy and rejection of the UN resolutions.

Pakistani Parliamentarians Arrive 12 May
JN1205170289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Damascus—A Pakistani parliamentary delegation headed by National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a 1-week visit to the country.

The delegation was received at Damascus international airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Shakir al-Sa'id, Arab and Foreign Affairs committee head and National Assembly secretary general; the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

During the visit, the delegation will hold talks on promoting relations between parliamentarians of the two friendly countries. The delegation will meet with ranking party and government officials and will visit some provinces in the country to see historical sites and observe architectural development.

Malik Mairaj Khalid told SANA: We feel pride in and respect for the efforts exerted by the Syrian leadership, government, and people to achieve the goals and establish peace in this part of the world. He expressed his confidence that the talks during his visit will be significant and constructive. This visit will pave the way for future visits between parliamentarians in the two countries, adding that his delegation is a parliamentary delegation of the ruling party in Pakistan.

Malik Mairaj Khalid praised the good relations binding the two friendly countries. He thanked the Syrian leadership, People's Assembly, and government for their invitation to visit this friendly country. He said: I am happy to invite a Syrian parliamentary delegation to visit Pakistan.

Meet With Prime Minister
JN1405184589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] At 1930 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received the Pakistani National Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid. Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and External Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus attended.

At the beginning of the meeting, Khalid conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Khalid expressed Pakistan's support and backing for Syrian stands, especially toward the Palestine cause and the Lebanese question. He emphasized the need to develop and entrench relations between the two friendly peoples and countries.

The prime minister welcomed Khalid and his delegation and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistani Government. He noted the strong relations between the two friendly peoples and governments and the need to develop and entrench them.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around a number of issues of interest to both countries, particularly means to improve economic, trade, and cultural relations, for their common interest and mutual benefit.

Meet With Foreign Minister

JN1305195789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Pakistani National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him.

Attending the meeting were Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and international relations committee of the People's Assembly; and Azmat Hassan, Pakistan's ambassador in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting dealt with relations between Syria and Pakistan. The two sides also reviewed the international situation and the current developments in the region, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in Afghanistan.

Assembly Speakers Meet

JN1305170989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] A round of parliamentary talks was held at the People's Assembly this morning between a Syrian People's Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and a Pakistani National Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid.

At the outset of the talks, the assembly speaker welcomed the guest delegation and wished it a good stay and a successful and fruitful visit. He then briefed the delegation on parliamentary life in Syria; on the assembly's activities on the domestic, Arab, and international levels; and on its relations and cooperation with parliaments and parliamentarians which seek to serve Arab issues as well as the causes of peoples struggling to achieve liberation and construction.

In his speech, Qaddurah affirmed the importance of bolstering the expanded, comprehensive, and fruitful cooperation between Syria and Pakistan on the bilateral and international levels to serve issues of common interest, especially those pertaining to confronting imperialism, Zionism, and the hostile challenges facing them.

Qaddurah reviewed the current Arab and international issues and stances. He highly valued the stances taken by the Pakistani people in support and backing of the just Arab causes, especially under the governments of both martyr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto. Qaddurah referred to the importance of exchanging visits by delegations and expertise and the importance of bilateral cooperation and coordination on parliamentary issues of common interest to both states.

Afterward, Pakistani National Assembly Speaker Mairaj Khalid spoke and voiced in his name and on behalf of the delegation his pleasure over visiting Syria, a country with a rich and ancient history which has been struggling courageously under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to bring about development, progress, and liberation. Khalid affirmed that Pakistan—people, leadership, party, and government—are continuing their full support and backing for Arab causes until the Arab victory is realized, until the occupied Arab territories are liberated, and until the Palestinian people regain their legitimate national rights, including the right to establish their independent state and to exercise their right to self-determination.

Khalid reiterated that Pakistan greatly appreciates and holds in high esteem Syria and its leader, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, for the continuous and wide-ranging support it has been providing for the Pakistani people's struggle to realize their freedom and development. He affirmed the need to work continuously to strengthen the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, to bolster the already strong bilateral relations, and to exchange visits by delegations of the two countries and expertise on all levels to serve issues of common interest to both states.

Palestine Broadcast on Anti-Israel 'Explosions'

JN1605202189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 15 May 89

[Palestine Broadcast: Unattributed commentary]

[Text] By stating that his forces' crimes will not make it harder to obtain U.S. Congressional approval of economic aid to the Zionist entity, Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist enemy war minister in charge of supervising the bestial and criminal repression against our freedom-seeking people, proceeds from his awareness of the imperialist superstructure in the United States. He also proceeds from the nature of the existing relations of alliance between the two military institutions in Washington and Tel Aviv.

However, Rabin's wager on the topic of interests may at some time turn against him because the continuation of the current Zionist repressive measures may lead to side explosions that might harm not only the Zionists' interests but also those of all who help them or overlook their crimes. There are more Palestinians in the diaspora than

in the occupied homeland. The supporters of the Palestinian people and their just cause are today everywhere in the world, and no one can guess where, how, and when resounding reactions to the Zionist crimes will come. Even changes in U.S. public opinion itself may place the supporters of Zionism in an embarrassing position because these supporters are now clearly viewed by public opinion as enemies of human rights and criminal killers, none of whom can be an object of respect.

Rabin's wager then remains, despite everything, a temporary one. The solid Palestinian stone will triumph through the strong and solid will of our people.

Christian-Muslim Clash in Idlib Reported

*NC1705144389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 May 89*

[Text] According to reports from Syria, a clash occurred between Christians and Muslims in the town of Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib Province during the funeral of seven occupation forces soldiers who were killed in Lebanon.

According to these reports, the relatives of the dead soldiers attacked some Christians on the pretext that their sons were killed in Lebanon at the hands of the Lebanese Army. Syrian intelligence men intervened and contained the incident.

Afghanistan

KHAD Chief Reportedly Defects to Mujahidin

*LD1605163289 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Islamabad, May 16, IRNA—The chief of the Kabul regime's notorious secret police (KHAD) along with an Army brigadier defected to the mujahidin in Ghazni Province, a reliable source disclosed today.

KHAD chief Imamuddin and Brigadier 'Abdul Rahman joined Commander Ahmad Khan of Hezb-e Eslami (Yunis Khalis faction) along with their arms and a jeep, the source added.

Marxist officials in Ghazni Province were steadily decreasing and a paramilitary force of 450 soldiers was the only Marxist company serving in Saradoy [place-name as received], said Mirza Muhammad, a former soldier who recently joined the mujahidin.

He said soldiers were facing acute food shortage and their health conditions were deteriorating day by day.

Meanwhile the daily 'FRONTIERPOST' from Peshawar reported today that Hezb-e Eslami chief Mawlawi Muhammad Yunus of the Pakistan based 7-party alliance left for Jalalabad Sunday to meet local commanders.

Quoting a party spokesman, the paper said this was Yunis' third trip to Afghanistan since his taking over of the Interior Ministry portfolio in the self-declared interim government hastily assembled by the Pashto-speaking alliance last March.

Hikmatyar Cited on Soviet, Indian Involvement

*BK1605162489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 16 May 89*

[Text] A delegation of Afghan 'ulema have had a meeting with the president of the interim government, Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi. Professor Mojaddedi asked the 'ulema to step up their efforts for mobilizing support for the interim government. The 'ulema assured him of their full support.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister of the interim government, Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, is reported to be on a visit to Afghanistan. Talking to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, he described the situation in Afghanistan as very critical. He accused the Soviet Union of encouraging India to indulge in the Afghan battle.

Election Law for Loya Jirgah Outlined

*LD1505100489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1630 GMT 14 May 89*

["The Election Law for the Loya Jirgah"]

[Text]

Chapter I: General Articles

Article 1

In accordance with Articles 66 and 70 of the Constitution, this law was made in order to organize affairs relating to elections of members to the Loya Jirgah.

Article 2

The Loya Jirgah is being convened by decree of the president.

Article 3

a. The Loya Jirgah is the high manifestation of the will of the people and the indicator of national power.

b. The Loya Jirgah is comprised of:

1) Members of the Milli Shura [National Assembly]; 2) 10 elected members by the people from every province and equivalent unit; 3) governors and the Kabul city mayor; 4) the prime minister, deputy prime ministers, and members of the Council of Ministers; 5) the chief justice, his deputies, and members of the Supreme Court; 6) the attorney general and his deputies; 7) the chairman of the Constitution committee and members; 8) members of Executive Board of the National Front; 9) The maximum number of political, scientific, social, and religious personalities which, through the proposal of the Secretariat of the National Front, are appointed by the president.

c. The elected members included in Section b, Paragraph 2, of this article are elected in accordance with the articles of this law.

Chapter II: Legal Basis for Election of Loya Jirgah Members

Article 4

The elections to the Loya Jirgah are being carried out by open ballot through the Council of Representatives of the people.

Article 5

Ten members are elected to the Loya Jirgah from every province and the equivalent units without consideration of the population figures.

Article 6

Each voter in the election has the right to one vote.

Article 7

The voters in the elections are taking part in observance of the principle of equality.

Article 8

Control over the will and inclination of the voters is not permissible.

Article 9

The creation of any sort of direct or indirect limitation on the voters in the elections on the basis of race, nationality, tribe, sex, education, language, religion, faith, political belief, place of residence, relationship, property, and social status is prohibited.

Article 10

Every province and equivalent unit is recognized as one election center.

Chapter III: Conditions for Voters and Candidates

Article 11

Voters who are mentally ill and imprisoned cannot take part in electing the delegates to the Loya Jirgah.

Article 12

Candidates for membership in the Loya Jirgah must meet the following conditions:

- a. Be a citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan.
- b. Have reached the age of 25.
- c. Be trustworthy, faithful, and truthful.
- d. Not have been legally deprived of civil and political rights.

Chapter IV: Election Commissions

Article 13

In order to organize and convene the election for the Loya Jirgah and control over the implementation of the articles of this law, the following election commissions are formed:

- a. Central election commission.
- b. Provincial and equivalent units election commissions.

Article 14

a. The composition of the central election commission and provincial and equivalent units commissions are fixed by decree of the president.

b. Central, provincial, and equivalent units commissions will have a secretary who will be elected from among the commission members.

Article 15

The central election commission has the following authority:

- a. Control over the implementation of the articles of this law throughout the country.
- b. Listening to the provincial and equivalent units commissions reports and adopting measures in this regard.
- c. Assessing petitions and complaints emanating from the work of the provincial and equivalent unit commissions.
- d. Control over all other authorities entrusted to it in accordance with legal documents.

Article 16

Provincial and equivalent units commissions have the following authority:

- a. Coordinating and organizing the convening of elections.
- b. Control over implementing the articles of this law in the course of coordinating and convening elections in the provinces and the equivalent units.
- c. Registering the names of candidates in accordance with the articles of law.
- d. (?Introducing) candidates to local residents.
- e. Registering the names of those being elected as delegates to the Loya Jirgah.
- f. Assessing petitions and complaints concerning the beginning of elections and voting and the adoption of necessary decisions in this regard.
- g. Maintaining expenses for the delegates' transportation and their stay.
- h. Solving other matters related to elections to the Loya Jirgah.

Article 17

The meeting of the election commissions is being convened on the invitation of the chairman with the attendance of more than one-half of the members.

Article 18

a. Decisions of the election commission are made by the majority vote of the meeting participants.

b. [passage indistinct]

Article 19

Complaints about provincial and equivalent units commissions are presented to the Central Commission and will be assessed within 48 hours.

Article 20

[passage indistinct]

Article 22

The introduction of candidates to the membership of the Loya Jirgah begins after the issuance of the president's decree concerning the fixation of the duration of the election.

Article 23

Nomadic candidates for membership in the Loya Jirgah, in observation of Article 4 of this law, should be introduced to the locality's election commission standing at the time of the election.

Article 24

A candidate who gives up his candidacy after the end of the registration period is dutybound to inform the relevant commission within 24 hours.

Article 25

The election commissions of a province or its equivalent units are dutybound, in observation of the articles of this law, to register the name of the candidates and distribute certificates to each of them.

Article 26

The candidates have the right, after the date of registration by the relevant election commission, to take part in the elections and to make a statement.

Article 27

A candidate for membership in the Loya Jirgah, after the registration of his name in the election commission, has the following rights:

- a. The payment of salary from his last place of work until the end of election.
- b. Free use of state transport and passenger vehicles.

Article 28

A candidate for membership in the Loya Jirgah cannot be judicially prosecuted without the president's approval. Cases of evident misdemeanor are exempt from this article.

Chapter VI: Election Convocation

Article 29

Election to the Loya Jirgah is carried out in 1 day throughout the country.

Article 30

Elections in every province are held by the election commission in the province's or equivalent unit's center.

Article 31

Voting begins at 0700 and continues until 1900 the same day, under the supervision of the election commission in the election centers.

Article 32

The election commissions count the number of each candidate's votes in front of the candidates and arrange the relevant protocol.

Article 33

The election commissions send the protocols of the vote count, which are to be signed by all members of the commission in front of the candidates, to the central election commission.

Article 34

The candidate who wins the majority of the votes of the electors will be considered the winner of the elections.

Article 35

If a number of the candidates obtain an equal number of votes of the electors, the principle winner will be chosen in accordance with a draw and will be registered in the protocol.

Article 36

Certificates will be made by the authoritative courts for the winning candidates.

Article 37

a. Should the instructions of this law be trampled on in the course of elections during the counting of the votes or in assessing the results of the elections, the central election commission is able to reject the registration of a representative and consider his election uncreditable.

b. If the elections are canceled in a province or its equivalent unit, the elections will be held again after the period of its cancellation by the instruction of the president.

Chapter VII: Final Instructions

Article 38

1. The expenses of holding elections for membership in the Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan will be paid by the state.

2. The candidates for the Loya Jirgah and voters are exempt from any type of expenses concerning holding elections.

Article 39

The credential-writing commission of the Loya Jirgah will be formed during the first session. After the assessment of the legality of the documents by this commission, membership cards will be distributed to members of the Loya Jirgah.

Article 40

a. The documents of the relevant Loya Jirgah election commissions should be handed over to the Presidency Office immediately after the conclusion of the elections.

b. The organization of the filing of the election documents will be done by the Presidential Office.

Article 41

When the president announces the end of the Loya Jirgah's work, the membership of the elected members will be ended.

Article 42

This law will be enforced after ratification by the president and will be published in the official gazette and other mass media information services.

3 Killed in Shelling of Kabul by 'Extremists'

LD1605170989 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Pakistan-based extremists who oppose peace and tranquillity for our people once again committed an unforgivable and shocking crime by firing ground-to-ground rockets at residential areas of Kabul city. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that the rockets fired by these criminals landed in residential areas of Wards 10 and 11, where three compatriots, including a woman, were killed. Other rockets fired caused no loss of life, but inflicted material damage.

Fighting Continues Around Jalalabad, Qandahar

BK1605153089 *Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu*
1500 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, fierce fighting continues between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in various parts of the country, including Jalalabad and Qandahar cities. The reports say the mujahidin have engaged the 81st Brigade of the Kabul regime around Jalalabad, inflicting heavy loss of life and materials on it. The reports add that the mujahidin also carried out a surprise attack on a convoy of Kabul regime troops moving toward Jalalabad. Many tanks and vehicles were destroyed in the attack.

Mujahidin Reportedly Destroy Afghan Plane

LD1505115489 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1123 GMT
15 May 89

["Afghan Warplane Shot Down on Communist Coup Anniversary"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, May 15, IRNA—An Afghan military plane has been shot down and two missile launchers destroyed in a recent operation by the mujahidin.

Former Afghan Col. Abdulaziz [name as received], who has joined the mujahidin since the communist coup in Kabul, made the claim in an interview with IRNA here Sunday.

"In the operation, meant to prevent the Kabul regime to mark the coup anniversary on April 27, one Russian-made Sukhoi-22 was shot down during a flight over Shindand airbase," he said.

Two Katiyusha missile launchers were also destroyed and some amount of ammunition was demolished he added.

"16 Afghan militarymen including 3 officers also joined the revolutionary Muslims which is proof of lack of morale in the regime's armed forces," he asserted.

After the operation the Kabul forces shelled the mujahidin's positions in the region and began reinforcing its forces around the Shindand airbase.

Shindand is the second major airbase in Afghanistan from where warplanes embark on missions to target mujahidin positions in western, southern and central regions of Afghanistan.

Report on Military Situation in Provinces

LD1605202189 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1530 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] As a result of retaliatory strikes by the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan against the Pakistani-linked extremist groups, heavy losses were

inflicted on the joint enemy forces. Assorted weapons and strong points of the enemy were either destroyed or seized by the Armed Forces.

Quoting an official source of the Armed Forces, BAKHTAR's military section reported that units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province carried out search and mopping-up operations southwest of Jalalabad city. As a result, several heavy weapons and 12 surface-to-surface missiles belonging to the extremist groups were seized by the Armed Forces. The report adds that the joint enemy forces, including Pakistani militia and the Wahhabi extremist mercenaries as well as Pakistani-linked extremist groups, supported by Pakistan's 11th and 18th Divisions, launched heavy-weapons fire against Jalalabad, the region around it, and the airport that injured 8 people and destroyed 3 houses. As a result of retaliatory artillery fire and air attacks by the Armed Forces, 35 armed extremists were killed and 24 wounded. One truck carrying weapons, one ammunition dump, one BM-12 unit, and two mortars belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The source added that Pakistani-backed extremists, together with Pakistani militias, attacked areas of Khowst Major District yesterday. They received crushing blows. As a result of artillery and air raids by the Armed Forces against the enemy's joint forces, 723 people were killed, most of them Saudi armed mercenaries. Two BM-21's and two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

According to the report, the enemy fired on parts of Qandahar Province yesterday. As a result, one person was wounded. Following retaliatory fire by the Armed Forces, 11 of the enemy were killed and nine others were wounded. Two trenches and an assortment of arms were destroyed.

In Helmand Province, one of the ringleaders of the Rabbani group was killed during mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces.

Another report says that as a result of mopping-up operations in the Hazrat Emam District of Konduz Province, 32 extremists were killed and 28 others were injured. Three ringleaders are among those killed. A BM-1, two recoilless guns, one DSHK, one radio, two vehicles, an assortment of various infantry weapons, 21,000 rounds of ammunition, and 28 rockets were seized by the Armed Forces. Five of the extremists surrendered to the Armed Forces and seven others were captured.

The situation in the rest of the country remains calm, and important communication lines are open.

Clashes Between 'Extremists' Continuing
LD1705084189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 16, BAKHTAR—Eight extremists were killed and 27 others injured as a result of the heavy clashes occurred among the extremist rival groups in the

Parvan, Paktia, Zabol, Faryab and Takhar Provinces recently. Our military correspondent reported from that provinces that internal differences among the extremist rival groups are intensifying by every passing day.

India

Petroleum Products Reportedly Supplied to Nepal
BK1705040589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] India has supplied nearly \$3 million worth of petroleum products to Nepal in addition to what that country required to get under the agreement which expired on the 31st of March this year. A press note issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu yesterday said figures released by the Indian Oil Corporation show that its Nepali counterpart corporation has drawn heavy quantities of petroleum products from India during the months of February and March this year.

It also discounted reports appearing in Nepalese media claiming that petrol and allied products imported by Nepal from Third World countries against convertible currencies have not been allowed to enter India since the 23d of March.

LTTE Attacks on Peacekeeping Force Raise Doubts
BK1705032189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] The LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] recent step-up in attacks on the [Indian] peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka has raised doubts about its sincerity in current talks with the Sri Lankan Government. These remarks were made by an official spokesman in New Delhi yesterday when asked to comment on the killings of the peacekeeping personnel. He told newsmen that even while the LTTE is engaged in a dialogue, their actions show a different method and motive. He said the Indian Government is in constant touch with the Sri Lankan Government about the situation in the island.

300 More Bangladeshi Refugees Arrive in Tripura
BK1705050289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 17 May 89

[Text] About 300 more Chakma tribals have fled the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh and crossed the border into Tripura. About 300 Chakma refugees had crossed over into Tripura earlier in the week. The new batch reported at the (Karbuk) Camp in Tripura on Monday [15 May]. The state chief minister, Mr S.R. Majumder, told newsmen that the Chakmas have not yet been admitted into the camps.

Exiled Tibetans Reaffirm Dalai Lama's Leadership
*BK1605133089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] New Delhi, May 16 (AFP)—The national assembly of the Tibetan government in exile Tuesday called for the immediate lifting of martial law in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, and reaffirmed its faith in the Dalai Lama's leadership.

However a statement issued here following a ten-day conference of the exile government's policy making body in the northern Indian town of Dharmasala said many members had questioned the Dalai Lama's stance on negotiations with Beijing over Tibet's future.

The statement also expressed solidarity with Tibetans inside the country in their "continuing struggle against Chinese rule."

China clamped martial law on Lhasa and expelled all foreign tourists in March after a crackdown on anti-Chinese demonstrators left 16 people dead by official count. Returning travellers said the death toll could be as high as 60.

The statement also noted with gratitude "the increasing international awareness" of the Tibetan problem, but in an unusual admission said many assembly members had "expressed strong reservations" about the Dalai Lama's offer to negotiate with China.

The Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal leader of all Tibetans, in 1988 proposed talks with Beijing on the future of Tibet on the basis of complete autonomy outside the fields of defence and foreign relations, which he proposed should be managed by China.

"A large number of (the 341) national assembly members expressed strong reservations concerning the Tibetan offer to negotiate with the Chinese Government because of concessions contained in the Tibetan proposal," the statement said in apparent reference to the clauses on defence and foreign relations.

In March of this year the Dalai Lama conceded that his dropping of demands for complete independence had angered many young Tibetan militant exiles, who have been threatening to resort to armed struggle.

Tuesday's statement said he had proposed to assembly members during the session that the Tibetan community "share the responsibility of government without remaining solely dependent on him."

However, the statement continued, the issue was discussed in depth and "it was unanimously resolved to urge His Holiness to continue to lead the nation."

The policy guidelines drawn up at the session are binding on the Tibetan government in exile for two years, the statement said.

India is home to some 100,000 Tibetan exiles who followed the Dalai Lama here after a bloody 1959 anti-Chinese uprising, but no state recognizes the exile government.

'Long-Term Planning' of Defense Costs Urged
*BK1405063489 Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 May 89
p 4*

[Article by Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses: "Defence Spending: No Short-Term Solution"]

[Text] India's rising defence expenditure in the Eighties has been attracting great attention in the country and abroad. Since the expenditure relates to the crucial area of national security, it is important to examine the issues affecting it.

At the outset it must be emphasised that we must keep the costs of defence down. However, it also must be noted that national development can take place only under conditions of adequate confidence and assurance of peace and security over a period of time.

Defence expenditures have to be seen in the context of the security environment and a credible defence posture. Our attempts to keep the defence expenditure very low (at around two percent of GNP [Gross National Product]) during the first 15 years of our independence had left us inadequately prepared and no doubt constituted a strong incentive for the military aggression against us by China and Pakistan in the Sixties.

India, through the Seventies, was spending an average of 3.5 percent of its GNP on defence. In terms of constant prices (at 1970-71 level) the defence expenditure, at an average of 3.34 percent of GNP between 1970-79 was lower than the average for the preceding decade. In 1980-81, it touched its lowest point (at 2.96 percent of GNP) during the past 30 years. The reasons are not difficult to discern; and in many ways explain the growth in the Eighties.

During the Seventies, India was able to take a relaxed view of the security environment. The expansion of the defence forces in view of the changed threat environment and the 1962 border war had been completed and consolidated. The Simla Agreement with Pakistan promised an era of peace. The Sino-Indian dispute and problems had not only been frozen but after Mao Zedong's death, movement towards normalisation of relations was in evidence. The Indian defence planners responded to these developments by postponing modernisation and re-equipment in defence forces.

The beginning of the 1980s saw a rapid deterioration in the security environment. Pakistan, which had vastly expanded its military forces through the Seventies, started acquiring high technology sophisticated weapons like the F-16s, fire-finder radars, Harpoon and other guided missiles, etc. China set in motion a massive effort to modernise its military establishment, especially focusing on long-range all weather mobility or firepower and power projection capabilities. The Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan increased the tensions in the region.

The Indian defence forces were not only facing the threat of obsolescence of military technology in a rapidly changing operational environment, but also a concurrent problem of a severely degraded security environment. Needs of modernisation and re-equipment imperatives telescoped in time, forcing a sharp increase in defence expenditure.

In relation to the gross national product (GNP), the defence budget rose from 3.37 percent in 1980-81 to a peak of 4.17 percent in 1987-88. It declined to 3.94 percent last year because of a higher rate of growth of GNP.

If the present trends continue, even if a 10 percent inflationary element were to be added to the revised estimates for the next financial year, the defence expenditure is likely to remain stabilised in a decline. The arrest and decline in the growth rate of defence expenditure, however, has been achieved apparently by once again postponing modernisation or reequipment plans to a certain extent.

The problem is perhaps best illustrated by looking at the expenditure on stores (which include maintenance costs) which, as a proportion of the Budget, stood at 27 percent in 1962-63. It grew to around 30 percent in the Seventies and to nearly 45 percent in 1988-89. This reflects not only the increasing sophistication of technology in the defence forces, but also the escalating costs of modern equipment and its maintenance.

Within this overall picture, it is essential to note the marked discontinuity in the defence expenditure during the two-year period from 1985-86 to 1987-88, when the expenditure went up from Rs [rupees] 7,988 crore to Rs 12,000 crore. This is significant because, in spite of the growing defence expenditure, in terms of share of GNP it had started a decline from 1982 to 1985. Moreover, the increase included Rs 1,100 crore on account of pay and allowances resulting from implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission. Also, while stores expenditure jumped by nearly Rs 2,000 crore, it was mainly on account of payments falling due on equipment already acquired and increased costs of its maintenance.

All the statistics notwithstanding, the issue really is that we need to create and maintain adequate credible defence capabilities at affordable costs. At an expenditure level of less than four percent of GNP, it is difficult

to accept that we are spending too much. There is, however, a strong case for effective long-term planning. The sharp discontinuities in expenditures themselves indicate the erosion of whatever long-term perspectives exist in their implementation.

The problem, simply stated, is structural. With voluntary manpower signed on for a 25-30-year engagement, equipment life of 15-25 years, and defence plans for five years not necessarily dovetailed into national development plans, it is difficult to see how annual budgetary allocations (and a mid-year review) without longer-term committed funds can provide continuity in a national defence strategy. At the same time, no significant reduction is possible in the short-term perspective without seriously jeopardising preparedness.

With this background, the proposed defence outlay must be viewed as a bold step, and like all bold steps, with attendant risks. Reduction of tensions at the international level, and India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbours, especially China and Pakistan, hold out hope of a more relaxed security environment.

India's defence budget of Rs 13,000 crore represents a marginal drop in absolute terms and nearly 14 percent reduction in real value terms. The resultant regression in maintaining effective defence capability must be seen in its true dimensions. At one level it eases some pressure on resources. At another, and more important level, it is a signal and an initiative representing expectations of corresponding responses from China and Pakistan.

China has since announced its defence budget for the next year, indicating a 13 percent increase. The Chinese official defence expenditure is, however, grossly understated. In a military establishment like that of China, this figure is likely to represent only one-third the total expenditure. With a rapidly modernising military establishment, the costs of military equipment and its maintenance would be higher than the rate of inflation (officially acknowledged to be over 20 percent p.a., [per annum]). The rate of growth in China's real defence expenditure, therefore, would be much higher. China will need to display much greater transparency to create greater trust and confidence in its intentions and professions.

Pakistan has yet to announce its budget for the coming year. Its defence expenditure in the last three years has grown by 28.9 percent. It remains to be seen how far it will actually go in taking concrete steps towards lessening of tensions, especially in the light of Ms Benazir Bhutto's call for reducing defence expenditures and India's response in having actually planned to do so.

Iran

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Pan Am Crash *LD1605105289 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 16 May 89*

["Iran Denies Involvement in Pan Am Crash"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today condemned remarks by CIA officials on likelihood of Iran's involvement in the crash of a Pan Am plane and described the allegations as "mere lies."

The crash of the Pan Am airliner followed the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf last year as a result of which all its passengers, mainly women and children were killed.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told IRNA that the issue raised by "news imperialism" indicated the arrogant world's need for new pretexts against the Islamic Republic of Iran "particularly after West's defeat in the Salman Rushdie affair."

As a proof he reminded the "admission made by certain U.S. officials" after the incident that there were no evidences on Iran's interference in the incident.

The spokesman accused the U.S. of being a founder and promoter of state terrorism and as examples here referred to its downing of Iran's passenger plane, as well as its ruthless massacre of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims and its military threats and intervention in the internal affairs of Panama.

"The Western arrogance, particularly the U.S., subject free and independent states to their arrows of falsehood and rancor in a bid to deviate the world public opinion from their suppressive and inhuman measures throughout the world."

Foreign Ministry Condemns Lebanon Mufti's Death *LD1605173889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 89*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement condemning the latest conspiracy of a bomb explosion in Beirut which killed Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the Sunni mufti of Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry statement condemned the Phalangists for causing this tragedy and stressed: Today's explosion is a continuation of the conspiracy by those who are striving to increase tension in Lebanon in order to realize their sinister objective of dividing and dismembering the country.

The statement goes on to express concern for the loss of one of the greatest personalities of Lebanon's Sunni sect and calls all Muslims of the Islamic countries and the regional Arab states to confront this sinister plot. The

Foreign Ministry statement declares the Islamic Republic's support for the Government and Muslim nation of Lebanon in their confrontation of the conspirators and demands the prosecution, arrest, and punishment of those responsible for this crime.

Statement Issued on Palestine Occupation *LD1605113189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 89*

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the occupation of Palestine by the Zionist regime, our country's Foreign Ministry issued a statement today expressing the sympathy and solidarity of the Iranian nation with the Muslim and revolutionary Palestinian people. It reiterated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine in the occupied lands.

The statement refers to 41 years of occupation of Palestine by the Zionist regime. It declares the sympathy and solidarity of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Muslim and revolutionary people of Palestine, who are subjected to the most savage acts of aggression and crimes by Zionists and world arrogance, led by America. It states: The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its support for the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine in the occupied lands, which has shaken the Zionist regime and caused important developments in the region.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has considered the struggle for the destruction of the Zionist regime as one of its principal goals. Despite all kinds of problems it has made every effort to this end. But, unfortunately, despite the continuation of the beastly acts of aggression by the Zionist regime against Muslim nations, some reactionary Arab governments still nurture thoughts of compromising with that hegemonistic and dangerous regime.

In another part of the statement, condemning the diplomatic efforts by U.S. imperialism and certain reactionary Arab leaders to staunch the great Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine, which gains new momentum everyday and goes beyond the borders of the occupied lands with unprecedented velocity, the Foreign Ministry stresses: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Palestinian Muslims have discovered the true way to fight and will not accept any other way. The Islamic Republic of Iran also believes that the total liberation of occupied Palestine cannot be achieved except by relying on the principles of Islam and armed struggle against Zionist regime. For that reason it condemns any treacherous move which leads to recognising the Zionist enemy.

While supporting the legitimate rights of the Muslim people of Palestine it calls on all Muslims and freedom-lovers in the world to support the just struggles of the

Muslim Palestinian nation, which are aimed at attaining those rights, and most important of all, liberating all the occupied lands and establishing an independent Palestinian government.

President Khamene'i Visits North Korea

For coverage of the 3-day, official good-will visit of President Khamene'i and his delegation to the DPRK, including his talks with President Kim Il-song, banquet speeches by both presidents, and the cooperation agreement signed, see the North Korea section of the 15 May East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Soviet Official Holds Talks With Iravani

LD1605145889 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT
16 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The second round of talks between visiting Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev and Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani was held Tuesday.

The talks focused on long term cooperation between the two countries till the year 2,000 and on the outcome of Konarev's previous talks in Iran.

Konarev and Iravani chair the Soviet and Iranian delegations to the joint Irano-Soviet economic commission.

Earlier today, Konarev discussed with Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh mutual technical cooperation especially in the field of energy.

The two expressed hope that the work on constructing two dams over the river of Aras (N.W. Iran) and on developing two power plants set up jointly in Ahvaz and Esfahan would soon start.

They also agreed on setting up 2,000 megawatt power plants in Iran.

Confers With Musavi

LD1605173589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] N.S. Konarev, Soviet railways minister and head of the Iran-USSR joint economic commission, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking economic delegation, this afternoon met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi.

At this meeting, the Soviet railways minister referred to the positive outcome of his talks with our country's officials, pointing out that during the talks he has made maximum effort to expand mutual ties, and it is hoped that the agreements signed will reach the best possible conclusion. He added: During the visit to Iran, talks were held on issues of energy, railways, transport, agriculture, and the two countries' border transactions, which have had some desirable results.

Also during this meeting, Mr Konarev, conveyed a message and warm greetings from Soviet Premier Ryzhkov and mentioned the Soviet leader's particular interest in overall expansion of ties between Iran and the Soviet Union. Afterwards Prime Minister Musavi, while expressing gratitude for the message from the Soviet prime minister, pointed out: We regard relations with the Soviet Union as important, and these relations have a strong significance for the two countries and the region, and in this connection there are plenty of grounds for the expansion of ties.

Referring to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union, the prime minister described the outcome of this visit as very significant, adding: This trip will be a base for the expansion of ties between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Referring to the basis for strengthening mutual ties, our prime minister went on: Iran and the Soviet Union can have extensive cooperation in the political, cultural, research, and economic fields. In the economic field, in connection with construction of power stations, railways, dams, and other important key projects, big steps should be taken jointly and for the same reason we attach high importance to the two countries' joint economic commission.

Also in the course of this meeting, the prime minister stressed the need for further expansion and strengthening of the two countries' relations.

Czechoslovak Delegation Discusses Cooperation

LD1505184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT
15 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Industries Minister Rahim Kolahdiz and a visiting economic delegation from Czechoslovakia reviewed prospects for industrial cooperation here Monday.

Iran and Czechoslovakia are to cooperate in manufacturing auto tyres, textile machinery, cement, crystal and melamine dishes and utensils.

The Czech delegation indicated the readiness for cooperation in the area of building power plants for cement, sugar and tyre-manufacturing technology.

The two countries are also to review Iran's proposal for selling natural gas to Czechoslovakia.

The Czech delegation is headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Dobov Olney [name as received] who arrived Sunday. The visit is an interlude to a meeting of a second joint economic commission of the two countries.

The Iranian Industries Ministry official visited Prague on April 8.

Navy Commander Cited on Gulf Exercises
*LD1605141589 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT
16 May 89*

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—The recent joint land, sea and air maneuvers in the Persian Gulf area helped the Iranian Armed Forces to assess their strengths and weaknesses, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said.

"The maneuvers took place in a 150 square nautical mile area... in the exact area where the clash with America took place during the war," he said in an interview with IRNA Tuesday.

The Zolfaqar-4 military exercises (May 7-11) took place with Air Force, ground force and Navy units operating under a joint command which at times controlled more than 30 communication channels.

Helicopter units achieved a new record in the number of landings on vessels and Air Force fighters played an important role in mock bombing raids on sea shore positions, he added.

Malekzadegan said there were no casualties or losses during the exercise.

On improving the defence capability of the Navy, the commander said the aim was first to manufacture modern equipment with existing domestic technology and second to transfer technology from friendly countries.

At present 250 projects to modernize or restore naval units and equipment were being carried out. This included work on the destroyer, Sabalan, which was badly damaged in a clash with the U.S. Navy a year ago. "The amount of damage to this vessel was considerably greater than to the American Navy ship (USS Samuel B. Roberts) which hit a mine, and some American experts thought it was not possible to repair." Some sections of the Sabalan has been repaired up to 70 percent and the commander expressed hope the "unbelievable" work would be completed in two months.

Referring to the presence in the Persian Gulf of foreign ships Rear Admiral Malekzadegan said foreign warships came to the waterway on the pretext of safeguarding the interests of their governments during the war. "But they will continue to stay in the Persian Gulf even if we achieve lasting peace (with Iraq)," he said.

Commando Division Exercise Assesses Capability
*LD1605180589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 16 May 89*

[Text] A military exercise of the special forces and green berets of the 23d Commando Division of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces was held this morning in the presence of a delegation of foreign soldiers and Ground Forces commanders at the mountain camp near

the Amir Kabir dam. This maneuver was carried out in order to maintain the defense readiness of the Ground Forces and to review their combat capabilities, with participation of the special forces, the green berets, paratroopers, and particular groups for combatting terrorism and hostage-taking.

Editorial Says Iraq Fears Return of POW's
*NC1505155089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 9 May 89 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "The Red Cross Should Exert Pressure on Iraq"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Islamic Republic of Iran has stressed that it has accepted UN Resolution 598 in full as the framework for attaining peace. It has also stressed that all efforts or measures intended to alter the resolution as it stands or change the order of its contents or priorities will be summarily rejected.

The issue is that if Ba'thist Iraq had been so insistent on the practical implementation of UN Resolution 598 and had acted on this policy professed which it to support, all the Iraqi and Iranian POW's would have returned to their homes and no problem with the POW issue would exist today.

However, by obstructing the implementation of UN Resolution 598, Iraq is striving to keep issues undecided and has even sought to prevent the implementation of the entire first clause of the resolution. It is indeed regrettable that under such circumstances everything is in a state of inertia and stagnation, and that until now the basic issues of consolidating the hitherto fragile cease-fire between the two countries and retreating to internationally-recognized borders continue to be unresolved.

Even now, the Iraqi regime could display some goodwill in the consolidation of the cease-fire and a retreat to internationally-recognized borders. Thus it could expedite the release and exchange of the two countries' POW's. Naturally, the international associations have a major responsibility for this and need to pressure the Baghdad regime to end its obstructionism and to adopt the correct path for resolving problems. As a first step, it should display its goodwill by retreating to international borders.

Currently, there are camps in Iraq where the Iranian POW's are living in the most squalid conditions and the International Red Cross has not exerted the necessary pressure on Iraq to ameliorate these conditions. [passage omitted]

Iraqi obstructionism is not limited to this issue (it continues to obstruct the exchange of wounded and disabled POW's as well). The Islamic Republic of Iran has, on the other hand, unilaterally released wounded

and disabled Iraqi POW's, in keeping with its Islamic and humanitarian policy. However, there has not been the slightest hint of a reciprocal move by Iraq. [passage omitted]

In view of the present facts and figures, it appears too farfetched that the Baghdad regime wants the two countries to exchange POW's. This issue continues to be unresolved because the Baghdad regime is afraid of the concomitant dangers of the return of its POW's to their country. Naturally, it is attempting to thwart their return and to delay the exchange of POW's between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Larijani Comments on Baghdad Arms Exhibition
NC1305084089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 May 89 p 18

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani: "The Baghdad Military Exhibition: The Beginning of a New Policy?"]

[Text] 1. Dozens of large arms companies have participated in the Baghdad military exhibition and are showing off and selling themselves in various languages. The Soviet Union has "surfaced" its most modern arms: its "MiG-29's," "Sukhoi-25's," and giant transport planes that can be transformed into flying radars, and so on. More than 15 French arms companies have actively signed long-term military agreements for 50 more "Mirage-2000's," strategic missiles, and so on....

Britain, the United States, China, Brazil, and a number of other arms producers have actively participated in this exhibition, each one as much as it could.

But why this much weaponry for Iraq? What foreign danger is threatening the Ba'thist regime? Is this not the same regime that was the main source of aggression and conflict in the region both before and after the Islamic revolution?

2. In my opinion, no foreign danger is threatening Iraq. But the Baghdad military exhibition, and the approach by the countries that are active on the international scene, manifests a new policy by these countries in the region. They want to make Iraq the gendarme and the guardian of the region's interests, which both the East and the West have agreed upon.

This should be taken seriously. If this matter progresses at this pace, all the regional countries will have to pay a heavy price.

Of course, if we overlook those countries that have a record of arms sales, all the rest of the countries have reached this policy for different motives. The Soviet Union has no other foothold in the Persian Gulf except in Iraq; the domination of one of its satellites over the

region will definitely be a great success in Soviet policies, even if this domination is limited and achieved through some kind of agreement based on the interests of others.

The same applies to France. In other words, Iraq is the only bridgehead that France has been able to find in the region, and from here there is ample room to look for new areas to dominate. Of course, France's support for Iraq has already extended beyond the Persian Gulf.

In Lebanon, Iraq is the only country that supports the political words and military deeds of the insurgent Michel 'Awn; and this is exactly what France is seeking. But why are Britain and the United States extending military and political support to the idea of making Iraq the "gendarme" in the region? Have these two cruel powers left any place in the region free from being targeted by their diktat? Where?

The interesting point is that the record of British and American presence and domination in the region shows that Iraq has always been an element which threatens the interests of these two powers; they have had to safeguard their servants, on one pretext or another, in order to confront Iraq's threats. What has happened now that the scenery has suddenly changed? In my opinion, the only common denominator is the enmity felt toward the Islamic Republic. The United States and Britain want to use Iraq as a weapon to pressure and control Islamic Iran, and they are also paying a price in exchange for this.

3. Even though there is pleasure in rage and mania, it also has a bad point, in that it separates man from reality. The United States and Britain have a mania stemming from rage toward the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution; this in itself is a source of great hope. The theory of making Iraq a gendarme is not a good theory, because:

First, the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always thrown calculations off. This is probably the nature of a great revolution.

Second, the military strengthening of an aggressive element such as Iraq is a threat against the region, and regional countries will have to pay a heavy price if this threat is fulfilled. And certainly, Iran's vulnerability will be among the lowest.

Meanwhile, Iraq should not forget that those who want to use it as a pawn against Iran have more in mind for Iraq and are waiting for the right opportunity. Logic demands that Iraq adopt a logical stand toward its powerful neighbor and refrain from playing, once again, with fire, the consequences of which it fails to see. Logic demands that Iraq stop its obstinacy, remove the obstacles in front of peace, and enjoy the blessings of security and calm next to its powerful neighbor.

Council Examines Broadcasting Chief's Tenure
LD1505210689 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Secretariat of the Constitution Review Council [Showra-ye Baznegari-ye Qanun-e Asasi] has announced that the fourth committee of the Constitution Review Council held a meeting this afternoon on the following issues:

In connection with deciding on the name of the Majlis, the committee decided to adopt the name the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Showra-ye Eslami] for the Majlis.

In connection with the number of Islamic Consultative Assembly deputies it was decided that 270 should run and that one person should be added to the number of Majlis deputies with each 1 million rise in the country's population in 1 decade [as heard]. The allocation of seats to new deputies will depend on human, geographical, and political factors and will be decided by law.

The appointment and dismissal of the managing director of the Voice and Vision will depend on the unanimous vote of the heads of the three branches and the order [hokm] of the president. In addition, a seven-member council appointed by the leader and the three branches will oversee the order for the implementation of the duties of the managing director and the heads of the three branches will decide the duties and related internal regulations and the Majlis will decide on the related laws. It should be said that the final ratification of the resolutions of this committee rests with the Constitution Review Council.

Commentary Supports Punishment Law
NC1505062289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 6 May 89 p 2

[Commentary by Seyyed Mohammad Mir-Mohammadi entitled "State Punishments and Revolutionary Obstructionisms!"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty.

During recent weeks, we have witnessed how the law on state punishments approved by the Expediency Discernment Council [EDC] has been extensively discussed by the press, the mass media, and a group of people even before it was sent to be implemented. While our nation is on the eve of an attack at the base of which are heartless profiteers and hoarders who are sucking the blood of the people, some people resort to rash slogans with revolutionary facades claiming that "the blade of a knife cannot cut itself" and that "the only solution is execution." By propounding confusing allegations, such as "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" they have started a fight against the revolutionary and sound law

on state punishments. Knowingly or unknowingly, they have become so involved in the war against this law, that they have made the profiteers and hoarders' market flourish more.

Our dear nation is aware of such approaches and ploys throughout its revolution, and it has not forgotten the extremely rash slogans and efforts to stay one step ahead of the leadership. It has not forgotten the slogans calling for dissolving the Army, for upsetting the operation of factories, for making workers jobless through slogans feigning support for the workers, and for accusing officials who are affiliated with the left or the right.

Our nation sacrificed its dearest personalities and shed the purest of blood to struggle against such thoughts, the only objectives of which were to obstruct the revolution and, thus, to prove the correctness of its path.

Comparing the fight against high prices and the state punishment law with the fake struggles before the revolution is a very wrong thing to do. Because in addition to the vileness of the past regime's officials and decision-makers, the people's refusal to cooperate with the corrupt monarchy has nothing in common with the cooperation between the 36-million strong hezbollah ummah and the Islamic Republic.

Neither can the Islamic Republic's revolutionary and popular laws be compared with past laws. As the selfless ummah has always cooperated and continues to cooperate with its chosen government and officials, this time as well, this ummah will rush to the aid of the government; this element of strength should always be considered in any analysis.

Do not be mistaken. On its own, the state punishment law cannot and does not want to erase the impacts of international inflation, of inflation stemming from government and Majlis decisions, of inflation stemming from policies adopted by government companies and institutions that increased the prices of commodities and salaries, or of inflation stemming from lack of production.

The state punishment law is actually a whip against the profiteers who have been lashing the deprived masses with their deadly whip for many years. The state punishment law is a hope for the consumer and a refuge where complaints can be made and views expressed on the struggle against extortion, hoarding, and profiteering. Thus, those who intentionally or unintentionally want to make people lose their hopes, are intentionally or unintentionally pouring oil over the fire of the profiteers and economic leeches.

This time state punishments are in the form of a law—a law that was approved, after extensive studies, by a group of scholars and officials appointed by the imam in the EDC—a law that is forever. Even though it does not

stipulate execution, fining is also a high punishment for the economic leeches and the hoarders. Moreover, this law has very harsh approaches concerning some cases. [passage omitted]

The struggle against hoarders, profiteers, and government and private violators is serious and should be taken seriously because there is a direct link between cultural, economic, and political licentiousness. When cultural counterrevolution sees that there is no control in society over prices and economic disorder, it will intensify its activities and will resort to cultural corruption and violation of the Islamic garb and mock the martyr-nurturing ummah.

And when counterrevolution and foreign elements see that cultural corruption is not being dealt with seriously, it will start entertaining thoughts about plots, assassinations, and subversions. And when world arrogance sees that it was successful in creating differences among the Islamic ummah, then it will resort to fomenting more differences and nurturing spies.

In the same way that the government and the judiciary branch have started a serious and pitiless struggle against the drug smugglers and have been greatly successful in this, it should not—and does not—show weakness in the confrontation with economic and cultural terrorists. While cooperating with each other, the guilds, shopkeepers, and government officials should also draw a line separating themselves from the violators and heartless hoarders and profiteers. The mass media and the press should also be careful in their analyses, headlines, and stands. They should display true sympathies toward the deprived of the society so that, God forbid, the heavy burden of inflation does not increase and lead to high prices and shortages, to the evasion of the law by violators, and to the disappointment of the people.

Commentary Assesses State Punishment Plan
NC1405055689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 May 89 p 4

[Commentary prepared by the Economic Service: "Obstacles and Problems in the Implementation of the State Punishment Plan"]

[Excerpts] The rise in the prices of goods, has become doubly acute since the beginning of 1365 [year starting 21 March 1986] and it stems from various reasons; namely, a dependent economic structure, a reduction in oil incomes, and naturally, a shortage of many consumer goods needed by society on the one hand, and a greediness of distribution agents and absence of control on distribution on the other. This rise led to the imam's decree in Mordad 1366 [month ending 22 August 1987]. It also led to assigning the government an official order. Thus, the state punishment plan was approved and implemented.

This plan initially included only a number of goods, but then gradually expanded to include more goods. [passage omitted]

It was natural for the successful implementation of the state punishment plan to call for the coordination of three major elements. These elements were: The government, as the executive arm of the plan, the consumer, and the producer and the distributor.

Naturally, the producer and the distributor could not have the necessary coordination and cooperation with the plan because if these two channels had been correct and principled channels from the start, the state punishment plan would have been unnecessary.

The most important element in implementing this plan was the consumer, who was the target of the most extortions and exploitations. The successful implementation of the state punishment plan was contingent upon the constant and active cooperation and coordination between the consumer and the government; this, too, was not very successful. [passage omitted]

The Expediency Discernment Council's [EDC] decision to deprive the government of its authority caused the disintegration of whatever the government had tried to put into order for months. A plan, which had been partially successful and could have been the key to many problems reached a deadlock. It had been able to harness the speedy rise in prices (at least of the products that were listed on the draft) and in some cases reduced it. [passage omitted]

Because the EDC's decision lacks the necessary all-aspected outlook, the new implementation phase of the state punishment plan practically shows that this plan will meet a deadlock. The government cannot be blamed for this at all because, in the new plan, the government has not been given the necessary authority to allow it to adopt the necessary stand on the phenomena of profiteering and hoarding. What the mass media has been disseminating in recent days shows that those who have aimed the sharp blade of criticism at the government have basically not read the state punishment plan and its implementation regulations approved by the EDC! The mere fact that they have criticized the plan on equitable distribution of goods (the rationing plan) also proves this point.

If a good and principled plan is not approved, we cannot expect good and principled action.

Commentary Views Importance of Planning
NC1605112389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 16 May 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Excerpts] It was announced on Sunday [14 May] that the Islamic Republic's First 5-Year Plan has been sent to the Majlis by the government for deliberation. This plan is being taken to the Majlis a few days after the publication of the country's reconstruction policies and priorities. [passage omitted]

Today planning is considered a necessary and unavoidable element in each and every economic system in the world. [passage omitted]

Even though planning has a record of almost 40 years in Iran, this important issue has nonetheless never received the attention it deserves. During the era of the corrupt monarchy, elements such as despotism, planning discipline's not being accepted in society, the public's not participating in planning, and the domination of foreign interests and of dependent domestic forces practically prevented principled planning and correctly implementing programs.

Also, in the years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, even though the elements which caused planning to fail during the past regime were removed, nevertheless problems such as the imposed war, plots by arrogance, the imposition of unwanted conditions from abroad, and the need for planning's not being accepted by some in society delayed the issue of planning, relatively.

Apart from the economic, social, and cultural objectives, planning should also clarify the strategies, tactics, and ways needed to achieve these objectives. [passage omitted]

Even though coordination among all of society's foundations and ranks is necessary in planning, this coordination in this significant relationship can nevertheless only be achieved through deeds. If we want to be successful in the program of the country's economic, social, and cultural development, we should completely coordinate among the country's first development plan, the country's reconstruction policies and priorities, and the country's general budget. This is something that has been pointed out and noted by the country's officials as well. [passage omitted]

When studying Iran's economic situation during the past few years, we see that the absence of planning is a basic element that led to the majority of problems. For example, the basic solution for inflation and high prices which are today among the great problems faced by a large part of society, lies in planning and in implementing economic development programs.

At any rate, the presentation of the Islamic Republic's first development plan to the Majlis, along with the delineation of the country's reconstruction policies and priorities, can be a turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution of Iran if coordination is established between these two, if the deputies pay all the necessary attention when approving the plan, and if the country's executive branch is serious about implementation. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker's 'Adventurist' Remarks Reviewed
LD1205165189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian
Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Dear listeners. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's adventurist remarks on International Jerusalem Day, calling for murder, hijacking, and a variety of international terrorist acts as a means of resolving the Palestinian issue,

continue to be intensely discussed by international media and political circles. The aim of the discussions has apparently been to clarify the aims and motives behind Hashemi-Rafsanjani's decision to take that position and to make its purpose clear, so to speak.

Some circles have attributed it to the regime and to its leadership's intrinsic and blind terrorism. They have tried to present the U.S. and European imperialism efforts to find friends in the supremacy of jurisconsult government as a naive dream. They have tarred everyone with the same brush.

Another group has suggested that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is perturbed and under the influence of attacks by radicals. They have described his action as an attempt to wash his hands of deals with the imperialists.

Some circles have finally seen Hashemi-Rafsanjani's action as being hasty, showing poor judgment, and contrary to the interests of the supremacy of the jurisconsult system.

However, in our view the adoption of that position by Hashemi-Rafsanjani was not an isolated, accidental, and blind act. It was undertaken simply as a result of the reigning atmosphere, which arises from specific political aims, especially in connection with the regime's internal problems and with the power struggle between the factions.

There is no doubt about the fact that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nature and political line and his faction's political line is, for the Iranian people and political experts, linked with the Irangate disgrace and with the idea of solving the regime's crisis by means of the imperialists. In addition, the idea that he can, here and there and in different situations, adopt contradictory and multicolored stances to gain complete power and to isolate rivals and to demonstrate political duplicity is also an obvious reality and in keeping with the nature of the regime's structure and of its main actors.

What is worth noting is that in the Islamic Republic, in which the factions still quarrel with each other and in which no one, apart from Khomeyni, has more power than another, the attainment of ultimate power, especially after Khomeyni, is the main issue.

After becoming the ultimate power, it will be possible to mold domestic and foreign policy in a way that suits the powerholders and their masters. That same important issue is a subject of the imperialists' attention and they judge their friends on the basis of the criterion of victory in the power struggle and the various ways of achieving it.

What is now going on in the 25-member Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, which is meant, in the next month and a half, to solve the issue of Khomeyni's successor and the system's future leadership, also testifies to that same issue. It is therefore natural that

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his allies will try, to attain the main goal, that is, the attainment of ultimate power, also to take up the slogans of rivals and to become more royal than the king.

There is no doubt those fake political games and the reactionary and antipopular nature of the power struggle in the jurisconsults' regime will contradict the realities of Iranian society and the world, and its actors will become ever more disgraced and exposed. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's own withdrawal and that of other government leaders during the last few days is a result of that very disgrace and of the strong reaction of international public opinion against the regime's new adventurism.

Pakistan

Bhutto Sends Messages to Soviet, PRC Leaders
BK1505042889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has expressed the hope that the Sino-Soviet summit meeting will strengthen the current favorable trends in international relations, and particularly promote peace and stability in Southwest Asia.

In separate messages to Soviet President Gorbachev and PRC President Yang Shangkun on the Soviet leader's visit to China, she said the summit is an historic event not only for the two superpowers, but also for their neighboring country of Pakistan. The prime minister expressed the hope that the meeting will facilitate a speedy and peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue and help in the early return of Afghan refugees to their homes with dignity and honor.

Cabinet Meeting Reviews Internal Situation
BK1505161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The federal cabinet has noted that due to the correct measures taken by the federal government and the provincial governments, the situation in Sind has improved considerably over the past few months. The cabinet meeting, which was presided over by Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi today, held an in-depth, comprehensive review of the internal situation in the country in the context of the geo-political environment in and around the country.

The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Javed Jabar, later told newsmen that the cabinet has appealed for cooperation from all sections of the society because the government believes that the maintenance of law and order in the country is a collective national responsibility. The cabinet hopes that all political parties will ignore political differences and cooperate with the government in restoring peace and tranquillity.

The cabinet urged the press and mass media to play their national role in this regard as they did earlier during the restoration of democracy.

The cabinet was told that no large-scale migration has taken place in Sind in the recent past as reported in a section of the press.

The cabinet decided to offer reemployment with all benefits to those individuals who were dismissed under the martial law regulations from various corporations.

Sri Lanka

Rebel Violence, Rebel Negotiations Continue
BK1605140089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT
16 May 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 16 (AFP)—An Indian Army captain and a top Tamil rebel fighter were among 17 people killed in continuing political violence in strife-torn Sri Lanka, officials here said Tuesday [16 May].

The Indian officer was killed in a pitched gunbattle with the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in northern Jaffna District late Monday, Indian officials said.

They said a self-styled Tiger lieutenant colonel was killed along with three of his men in a similar firefight with Indian soldiers in the Nedunkerni jungles in Northern Province Monday.

An Indian official said Perumal Arumainathan was the LTTE's military wing leader in the northeastern coastal district of Mullaitivu and had led many attacks against Indian soldiers in the vast forest region.

Another Tiger fighter was shot dead by Indians in Jaffna Peninsula in a separate incident Monday, the officials said.

Elsewhere on the island, activists of the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) killed at least 10 people, including a teenage girl and a four-year-old girl Monday, military officials here said. [passage omitted]

The latest violence raised the death toll to at least 80 in political violence related to the LTTE and the JVP since Friday, official figures show.

The killings came as peace talks between Colombo authorities and LTTE political leaders continued in a bid to end the island's dragging ethnic conflict which has claimed nearly 10,000 lives since mid-1983. [passage omitted]

In a joint statement Tuesday, the government and the LTTE said nearly 5,000 civilians in Northern and Eastern Provinces had lost their lives since Indian troops deployed in July 1987.

"They (the LTTE) asserted that the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) has ceased to be a peace keeping force and its role today is that of an occupying army.

"It has escalated violence and intensified the conflict. They also pointed out that since the arrival of the IPKF, nearly 5,000 civilians in the North and East lost their lives," the statement said.

It was released after a ministerial level discussion with three Tiger leaders here on the "economic situation" in the troubled region.

"They said they (the LTTE) were in Colombo not to engage themselves in charges and counter charges but for a specific purpose of exploring all possibilities to bring about peace, stability and normalcy in the North and East," it said.

The statement did not give the government's own response to the remarks by the LTTE criticising the role of Indian troops.

(But in New Delhi the Indian Government voiced doubts Tuesday about the sincerity of the LTTE in the peace talks.

("We doubt whether they are genuinely serious about the negotiations they are conducting with the government," an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said here.

(The spokesman said at a daily press briefing that the LTTE appeared to have gone on "some sort of an offensive."

("Their motive appears to be to talk to the Sri Lankan Government on the one hand and keep attacking the IPKF on the other," he said, adding that the LTTE's apparent strategy raised doubts about its sincerity.

(India has welcomed the talks between the LTTE and Colombo and said it hopes they would lead to peace. India is not involved in the talks.)

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